Chamber believes working with Legislature is key. PAGE 3
Bid to resume contempt proceedings vs Yamamoto. PAGE 3

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Hafa Adai!

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SAIPAN FIREFIGHTERS
Fifteen firefighters from Saipan's Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services are assisting with firefighting efforts on the Orleans Complex. They have been in California for nearly a month, fighting fire where needed throughout the state. Photos by Shelwyn Taisacan were obtained from the Facebook page of the U.S. Forest Service–Six Rivers National Forest.

XTRAirways gets OK to fly to NMI

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

» MVA welcomes FL-based carrier's foray to CNMI

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has approved XTRAirways plan to fly the China-Saipan route effective Sept. 20.

The Florida-based carrier will join the roster of airlines such as Jeju Air, Jin Air, HK Airlines, Beijing Capital, T'Way, Easter, China Eastern, and Philippine Airlines

See XTRAIRWAYS on Page 4

33.5-pct. increase in medical referrals in 2017

BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

With less than a month left before the fiscal year ends in October, the CNMI had a total of 1,405 off-island medical referrals as of August 2017.

This is already a 33.5-percent increase from last year, which saw the

See REFERRALS on Page 4

3 to 4 CNMI volunteers to aid Harvey relief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Three to four American Red Cross-trained volunteers in the CNMI will be sent to the U.S. mainland to help in the relief efforts for thousands of residents who were devastated by Hurricane Harvey, according to ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh on Friday.

It's a three-week assignment for the three to four volunteers.

See RELIEF on Page 4

People push a stalled pickup through a flooded street in Houston. AP

Want to help?

» Here's how to give in Harvey's wake

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)— Charities are stepping up their donation requests in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, which has devastated South Texas and on Wednesday hit southwestern Louisiana. At least 18

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INSIDE

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This year's Marianas history conference turns out to be one of the most successful.

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YOUNGSTYLE
This month's edition of YoungStyle takes a backward glance at previous stories.

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LIFE & STYLE
A man rushes into a massive fire at the Burning Man festival's signature ceremony.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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9:00am to 6:00pm

Kagman Store
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm

IT&E

Local

Marianas history conference draws hundreds

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's edition of the Marianas history conference turned out to be one of the most successful ever, with hundreds of individuals showing up for in Garapan the weekend event.

Participants ranged from visitors coming from Guam and other parts of the world, to CNMI residents who wanted to be a part of the 3rd Marianas History Conference at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

According to Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell, this year's conference focused on key issues that affected both the Northern Marianas and Guam.

He expressed elation at the enthusiastic turnout.

"We had a lot of presenters. We had a great turnout. It went really well," said Russell.

He said the entire Hibiscus Hall was so packed that a few individuals had to remain standing just to witness each speaker's presentation.

"We had an overflow crowd yesterday morning [Friday]. We had almost close to 300 and we have a sizeable crowd today [Saturday]…we're quite happy with the amount of people that came," Russell said.

At the mixer prior to the conference, Russell expected to learn a lot from the conference and he confirmed this later, saying he picked up a lot of information from the many presenters throughout the two-day conference.

"It's hard to summarize all the different presentations … I learned a lot from keynote [Julian] Aguon, there were points of law that I did not understand that he helped clarify," said Russell.

Also present for the conference was Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair L.J. Castro, who felt that the conference was too vital to miss such that the entire municipal council staff was present.

"All members of the municipal council are here. We're all very passionate about culture and history, so we felt it was important for all of us to be here and listen to the scholars and what they had to present," said Castro.

According to Castro, this isn't the first historical conference that he has attended. Over five years ago, during the first historical conference, Castro was present and, according to him, the conference has always been about bringing historical events to the forefront and to share ideas and ways to face the issues that neighboring islands are also currently facing.

The conference lasted two days and showcased 36 different presentations.

Hundreds fill the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall last Saturday during the 3rd Historical Conference. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Torres enacts two local bills

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted two local bills last week that benefited both Saipan and Tinian.

House Local Bill 20-17 appropriates $12,000 to Tinian under Public Law 18-30, or the law that taxes poker machines, e-gaming machines, or electronic table games. It goes into the books as Tinian Local Law 20-04. The amount would be expended for personnel, operations, public programs, and contingency of the Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor's Office as well as the monthly subsistence allowance of $100 each per medical patients of Tinian.

Torres also signed Senate Local Bill 20-2, which establishes Rota's official anthem. Now known as Rota Local Law 20-06, "I Tano'-Mami" is considered the first senatorial district's official anthem.

Oscar Atalig Mendiola wrote and composed the anthem, while Melchor Atalig recorded it. According to the RLL 20-06, the anthem is sung after the United States and Commonwealth anthems at official government ceremonies. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Call for Nominations
2017 Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2017 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities;**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;**
- **Preservation of CNMI History; and**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).**

A fifth category, **Lifetime Achievement**, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and **are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 13 October 2017.**

Awards will be presented in a special ceremony in October (time, date and venue to be announced).

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

In celebration of Commonwealth Preparedness Month,
CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management,
would like to invite the community to attend the upcoming:

CNMI Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: September 6-8, 2017
TIMES: Walkthroughs/Presentations:
10 AM
2 PM
WHERE: CNMI EOC, Capitol Hill, Saipan
(Behind CNMI Dept. of Finance)

WHO IS INVITED: The CNMI Community to include Partners, Stakeholders, Private Citizens, Community Leaders

WHY: The EOC Open House provides an opportunity for all concerned citizens to partake in a tour of the CNMI Emergency Operations Center. In addition, a preparedness brief will be conducted by staff to discuss Preparedness Measures and upcoming weather outlook for the rest of the 2017.

HOW: Contact your Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000 or (670) 664-8000 to confirm seating. Seats are FREE and limited.

Chamber believes working with Legislature is key

BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Raising the minimum wage will help the CNMI economy and improve the overall standing of the lives of its residents and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce believes that compliance with what is mandated is imperative, but it also believes that employee morale would further improve if working with the Legislature would result in higher wages.

"We have seen wage increases due to the market. As our economy continues to grow and develop, wages will continue to increase," said Chamber president Velma Palacios.

"However, the Chamber believes strongly that our islands need to work in a unified effort to have the best chance at legislation which will bring a long-term resolution to our workforce issue," she added.

Palacios pointed out that wages in the CNMI have increased for two reasons: First, because of mandated minimum wage increases, and second, because of market forces.

Palacios

Beginning in 2007, the federal government imposed a new law to bring the CNMI's minimum wage of $3.05 to the federal level of $7.25.

Under the current law, the next minimum wage increase will occur on Sept. 30, 2017, with the new minimum wage at $7.05.

While wage increases may have positive intentions, they also cause small businesses on island to struggle, she said. "There is no doubt that wage increases are difficult for businesses to absorb, particularly smaller businesses with many workers at lower wage levels."

"Congress believes that our island is dependent on cheap labor," Palacios said, "and these statistics, the recent Prevailing Wages and Workforce Assessment Study, show that is no longer the case. Wages have increased and U.S.-eligible workers who are ready and willing to work are able to find jobs."

"As we have seen with our current economy, most employers are now paying wages much higher than the minimum wage," Palacios added.

She also emphasized that market forces play a part in boosting wages.

"There are many job opportunities for employees. Individual employee increases were made by business owners in the efforts to retain valued employees as other businesses sought to obtain additional workers," she said.

Palacios added that to sustain the economy, determining wage increase must be a joint effort between the government and the business sector to boost economic growth and available money that would benefit the workforce.

Palacios said, "Comments would be solicited from the [Saipan] Chamber on legislation introduced, which includes wage increases. The Chamber also participates in Strategic Economic Development Council meetings and collaborates with [the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands], [Society for Human Resources Management], and [Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.] on community issues."

M/V *Luta* custodian wants contempt proceeding vs Yamamoto reinstated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The former custodian of cargo ship M/V *Luta* has asked the federal court to reinstate contempt proceedings against a Japanese investor for, among other things, failing to pay at least $30,000 a month.

Alan Swimmer, president of Florida-based National Maritime Services, said that $112,994 is past due and should have been paid by Takahisa Yamamoto as of Aug. 31, 2017.

In his declaration in federal court on Friday, Swimmer said that Yamamoto made only one $30,000 payment after he and NMS settled and the court entered its orders releasing M/V *Luta* and putting the contempt proceedings against Yamamoto on hold.

Since that first payment on March 15, 2017, Yamamoto has paid a total of only $40,000, rather than the $150,000 (five months x $30,000) that he had agreed to, Swimmer said

"Despite repeated demands and attempts to work with Mr. Yamamoto through his attorneys in order to determine whether we could resolve the issue without court involvement, we have not been able to receive any meaningful response from Mr. Yamamoto," he said.

Swimmer's declaration was attached in support of the company's motion for the reinstatement of contempt proceedings against Yamamoto.

NMS counsel Sean E. Frink asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Yamamoto to explain in court why he should not be held in contempt and more sanctions instituted.

"Quite simply, Mr. Yamamoto should be forced to live up to his legal obligations and the promises that he made in order to cause the court to release him from the then looming contempt sanctions," Frink said.

NMS requested the court to compel Yamamoto to comply with his obligations under the settlement deal by delivering full assignment of all of his claims that are part of his lawsuit.

Frink said Yamamoto should also be required to pay NMS for the fees and costs NMS incurred to take this new measure.

Last March 8, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood placed the contempt proceedings against Yamamoto on hold to give Yamamoto the chance to comply with the terms of the settlement agreement between him and NMS.

The judge warned that if Yamamoto fails to fulfill the terms of the settlement agreement, he may be subject to further contempt proceedings.

Yamamoto has agreed to enter a stipulated judgment in the amount of $167,627 in favor of NMS.

Last Feb. 22, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter ordered the immediate release of the M/V *Luta* to its owner, Luta Mermaid LLC, after Yamamoto reached the settlement agreement with NMS.

Following the settlement, Carter discharged the court's previous order to show cause against Yamamoto and relieved NMS of its duties as substitute custodian for M/V *Luta*.

Luta Mermaid LLC's members are Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Carter found the settlement deal acceptable.

Tydingco-Gatewood issued the order to show cause against Yamamoto for failing to pay his outstanding balance of $130,000 in custodial fees no later than Feb. 14, 2017.

The vessel's crew, Long Consulting, and Norton Lilly have complied with the court's order by paying their shares of custodial fees in the total amount of $28,916. The crew and the two companies are intervenors in Yamamoto's lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owners of M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and the Mendiolas for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. The vessel was seized shortly after the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship last Oct. 25. NMS was then appointed as substitute custodian of the vessel.

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HELP

From Page 1

people have died, and countless residents are displaced from their homes.

While the urge to donate clothes and other supplies is natural, money is the quickest, most effective contribution most people can make during times of disaster, charities and philanthropy experts say. And donating directly through a website gets money to a charity faster than a text donation, even though the text might seem easier.

Here's how to make sure you are giving in a way that matters the most.

Give to established relief agencies

GuideStar's website has a database that lets you vet charities. You can find information on a charity's expenses, assets and revenue, as well as its programs.

Stacy Palmer, editor of The Chronicle of Philanthropy, also suggests looking at a charity's website for information on how it will use donations. And look through local news reports for information on a charity's work, or contact the local United Way and the local Community Foundation—in this case Houston's.

It's up to you whether to go with a local charity that might know the area better, or a national charity that has wider reach. Palmer says "both kinds of organizations have their place right now."

Texting to give?

It might be tempting to make a donation through text and have the phone company charge it on your phone bill. It's easy, and it might feel as though it's the quickest way to get money to a charity.

But Palmer says that's not the case, as charities have to wait for the phone companies to release the money.

The quickest way to give is to go to the charity's website and donate directly, using a credit or debit card. That said, relief agencies will need money beyond first few days or even weeks, so if the ease of text donations appeals to you, tap away. To donate $10 to the Red Cross via text, send a text message saying "REDCROSS" to the number 90999.

Apple users in the U.S. can also donate to the American Red Cross through the company's iTunes and app stores. Amounts range from $5 to $200, and you can't use store credit.

Timing

Donations often pour in immediately after disaster strikes but peter out during the long recovery process. While there are a lot of immediate needs, Palmer says, "charities are going to need support on the long haul."

Consider saving some of your money so you can donate again in a few weeks or months. Better yet, set up a recurring donation to support your chosen charity over time.

Some charities will say when they have raised enough for a particular disaster and use any extra money for their general fund, Palmer says. This isn't bad.

"One of the things this disaster shows is that it's important to have resilience," she says. "It's smart to just give and say that it can be used wherever it's most needed."

Crowdfunding

Group fundraising services such as GoFundMe let people raise money for friends, families, neighbors or themselves—as well as for charity. As always, do your homework before giving to a stranger or cause online.

GoFundMe has a special page for Hurricane Harvey pleas for charities, individuals and families. GlobalGiving, a crowdfunding site for charities, is trying to raise $2 million for local relief and recovery efforts.

Remember that donations are tax-deductible only if they go to a registered non-profit or charity. Otherwise, they are generally considered gifts.

RELIEF

From Page 1

"These are volunteers who have been working with the American Red Cross and have gone through our requisite training in all of our courses. They are experienced responders," Hirsh said.

All of these volunteers worked during Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 so they know exactly what the Red Cross program is, he added.

The volunteers' trip will be financed by the American Red Cross national office in Washington, D.C.

"We don't use local resources. When an event of this catastrophic nature happens, then our national office in Washington, D.C. supports the travel for all the responders," Hirsh said.

He said Red Cross would just slot in the volunteers.

"They look at the volunteers from around the nation who have the experience and are educated about our programs. And those are the ones that are assigned to those spots," he said.

Hirsh said these three or four volunteers from the CNMI who are leaving may not see each other for three weeks because they will be assigned in different areas.

As for the Red Cross' program in the CNMI, Hirsh cited Friday's proclamation signing that declared September as Commonwealth Preparedness Month.

"It's all about preparedness," he said.

Every household and every individual needs to think about when that next disaster is going to strike in the CNMI, whether it is a typhoon, an earthquake, a tsunami or even something man-made, Hirsh said.

"If there is some sort of man-made disaster, whether it is an explosion or a building collapse or something, we all need to think what we would do for seven to 10 days," he said.

Hirsh said people need to be prepared on how they would survive in that period and how they would communicate with their children and family members.

REFERRALS

From Page 1

CNMI Medical Referral Services send 1,052 patients off-island.

Broken down, the 1,405 patients were sent to the following: Guam, 1,018; Hawaii, 74; Philippines, 267; San Diego, 53; and Los Angeles, three.

By the time the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, the CNMI Medical Referral Services figures they will probably hit 5,500 patients, according to director Ronald Sablan.

To date, they have already spent $8.7 million for medical referral assistance, he said.

This is an increase of 6.1 percent from last year's $8.2 million expenditure on medical referral assistance.

Sablan hopes the Medical Referral Services' unfunded liability and the governor reprogramming of funds from other agencies will cover this discrepancy.

"We have never been budgeted based on our needs, although we submit data that are within 5 percent of what we ask for. Every fiscal year we go on the red because of the fact that we don't get enough appropriation for our operational needs."

"Our total funding for fiscal year 2017 is $2.6 million and right now, just on medical referral for patients, excluding operations and personnel, we have already exceeded $8.7 million," Sablan said.

It would be best if they get budgeted so they can stay and work within that budget, he said.

"We work with government agencies. This re-programming thing that the governor does works for us compared to 10 years ago when we were restricted with a lot of things. We were having problems getting airline tickets, problems getting accepted, and financial issues, especially when the economy was tough. But right now, for the last five years, we've been very fortunate that we are able to swing things around without delay due to financial issues," he added.

Despite the challenges that Medical Referral faces, Sablan said they try to help as much as they can.

"Funding is always a challenge for us but we do what we can so we can get people out and be treated accordingly," he added.

The procedure for medical referral is still the same. The only update is that the family escort must show competency in terms of overall health.

"The procedure is still the same, complete documentation. The only thing that we added on was making sure that the family escort, designated by the patient, is medically, mentally and physically fit to be an escort. We have had cases in the past where the escort was sicker than the patient," he said.

Sablan said Medical Referral incurred a lot of expenses doing that.

"They need a medical clearance or an affidavit stated and signed by escort that they are medically fit to be an escort and that they take full responsibility," he said.

The new requirement was added so any expenses incurred that are not exposed during the process of getting a medical referral will exonerate Medical Referral from any liability.

"Accidents happen and that we can take into account. But let's say the person has diabetes or a heart problem and they did not disclose that during the process and ends up having that problem as an escort, then we would not be responsible," Sablan said.

Currently, patients are sent for medical care and assistance to Guam, the Philippines, Hawaii, San Diego, and Los Angeles. Anticipating patient needs, Medical Referral has expanded their providers to South Korea and Taiwan.

"In terms of expansion, we just signed a contract to start sending patients to South Korea and Taiwan. There is a lot of logistics involved. The major reason for the delay is really waiting for an appointment because we cannot just pick up the phone and say we are sending a person out," Sablan said.

"We try our best and the facilities we work with are world-class, that is why we have expanded elsewhere so we can have better options and not delay a person's referral because hospital destinations are too busy," he added.

Sablan said that not all patients that they send out are dependent on government funds to assist with their medical needs.

"Even if our obligation is to send out patients, we still have to protect the government. We are sending out people who are unable to cover their medical costs. If a person is able to pay, we make sure that they pay for it. We can assist logistically but when they can pay financially, then they should pay for their own," Sablan said.

"Our role here is to assist people as fast as we can. But we have obstacles and processes to deal with providers but we are trying our best. Our team is composed of six case workers. Each one of them is working at least 30 cases at any given time, not including patients that they have already sent out that they still need to monitor," he added.

According to Sablan, they used to average 20 cases a week that have to go through with the committee whether they are going to be referred to or not. "Right now, we are hitting 50 cases a week.

"My staff is trying their best and we ask for the cooperation of the public. The faster they can provide and complete documentations, our job is to get them out as soon as we can," he added.

XTRAIRWAYS

From Page 1

that fly to Saipan in the midnight to 6am schedule.

The approval was stated in a CPA letter dated Aug. 29, 2017, sent to several government agencies.

XTRAirways is set to fly from China to Saipan six times a week in the 4am and 5am arrival times. Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday will accommodate the 4am flight and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday will accommodate the 5am flight.

The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes XTRAirway's entry to the growing CNMI tourism market. "The MVA is pleased," said MVA executive director Chris Concepcion.

XTRAirways does not only plan to have flights from China to Saipan and vice versa. They plan to make the CNMI their base for Pacific operations.

"XTRAirways has plans to base their fleet of aircraft and crew in the CNMI if these flights are successful, opening up opportunities for additional flying to Japan, Taiwan, Guam, and other regional destinations," Concepcion said.

At the last CPA board meeting, XTRAirways Pacific operations manager Thomas Nolte shared that XTRAirways has invested heavily in preparation for their operations in the CNMI.

"So many things have been done. We have hired CNMI residents, $3 million worth of equipment is under 24-hour guard at the airport in preparation for the flight and maintenance of aircraft and XTRAirways aircrafts have been modified to suit the climate in the region," Nolte said.

Concepcion noted that the U.S. Customs Border and Protection's reason for denying XTRAirways last week due to the lack of manpower is a federal issue.

"The fact that there are not enough CBP employees to handle additional visitors is a federal issue and we hope that they are able to beef up manpower in the CNMI to accommodate our growing tourism industry."

Concepcion said the MVA is willing to work with CBP and CPA so that no airline will be denied entry to the CNMI.

"We must work together to get to the point where CBP or CPA never have to deny airlines or visitors from entering the CNMI due to manpower or facility constraints."

MVA is the marketing arm of the CNMI, promoting tourism on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to the world.

"Tourism is the lifeblood of the CNMI. Without these tourists, we will have no economy to speak of—no funding to pay for many existing government obligations, no funding for infrastructure improvements and the list goes on," Concepcion said

"The MVA is excited about the new opportunities available with XTRAirways flying to the CNMI in a couple of weeks. We wish them the best and offer our support in promoting the CNMI to their customer base," he added.

Last week, the CBP, through director Robert Havens, said that they had to deny XTRAiways to fly in the midnight to 6am schedule due to lack of resources to process the flight in a timely fashion.

The schedule from midnight to 6am is notorious for long immigration lines that last three to four hours and the CPA and MVA have been working to decongest the lines.

Havens had also stated that if CPA gives approval to XTRAirways, they will find a way to make it work. "CPA can give them approval. If CPA thinks they can handle the airline, we say yes," he say.

XTRAirways confirmed that preparations are being made for the success of their maiden flight from China to Saipan on Sept. 20.

Torres urges residents to be prepared for disasters

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is urging all CNMI residents to be more aware of and be better prepared for any natural or man-made disaster that may threaten the islands.

"An informed community is a ready community," said Torres in signing a proclamation on Friday declaring September as Commonwealth Preparedness Month.

Torres hopes that natural or man-made disasters do not come but residents should still be prepared at any rate.

"Let's be prepared as much as we can in case if it does come," said the governor at the proclamation signing at the start of the Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The proclamation was in line with the nation commemorating National Preparedness Month. The celebration highlights the importance of having an emergency plan, exercising that emergency plan, and staying informed.

Torres underscored the importance of investing in the preparedness of families, businesses, and communities to reduce fatalities and economic devastation.

He said the celebration creates an important opportunity for every resident to prepare their homes, businesses, and communities for any type of emergency, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Report sought on status of Betty Johnson class action

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court ordered Settlement Fund Trustee attorney Joyce Tang and other parties to report whether all issues in the Betty Johnson's class action have been resolved.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood also directed Tang and other parties in the class action to submit the report whether this case can now be closed in light of the Johnson's settlement.

The judge gave the parties no later than Sept. 15, 2017, to file the report.

In 2013, Tydingco-Gatewood gave final approval to the global settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Under the settlement deal, the CNMI government agreed to make annual payments that will enable the Settlement Fund to pay at least 75 percent of class members' benefits.

With the final approval, all Retirement Fund assets were then transferred and assigned as assets of the Settlement Fund. The Settlement Fund was then administered by Tang.

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7D188	BLACK, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA	SOLD	WHEELS $3,500 $19,495
7D216	RED, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK	SOLD	WHEELS $3,500 $19,495
7D217	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS		$3,500 $19,495
7D218	BLACK, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA	SOLD	WHEELS $3,500 $19,495
7D219	SILVER, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA	SOLD	WHEELS $3,500 $19,495

MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D180	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$7,000	$26,995
7D142	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, MT, GRAND TOURING HARD-TOP	$5,500	$32,495

CX-3 GRAND TOURING

7D136	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$5,000	$23,995
7D137	CERAMIC, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT,	SOLD	SUNROOF $5,000 $23,995
7D197	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D198	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D224	RED, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEAT	SOLD	ROOF $4,000 $24,995
7D225	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995

HYUNDAI

ACCENT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7H200	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H203	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H204	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H224	GRAY, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL	SOLD	$2,500 $16,495
7H225	RED, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL	SOLD	$2,500 $16,495

ELANTRA

7H208	GRAY, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC	SOLD	WHEELS $4,000 $17,995
7H210	BEIGE, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC	SOLD	WHEELS $4,000 $17,995
7H211	RED, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK	SOLD	WHEELS $4,000 $17,995

VELOSTER

7H220	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H221	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H234	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC	SOLD	Y WHEELS $3,000 $18,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

GENESIS G80

7HO67	SILVER, LEATHER SEATS, COMPLETELY "LOADED"	$6,500	$38,495

TUCSON 2WD

7H185	BLUE, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC	SOLD	WHEELS $3,500 $22,495
7H186	BLUE, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC	SOLD	WHEELS $3,500 $22,495
7H192	SILVER, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA	SOLD	Y WHEELS $3,500 $22,495
7H214	SILVER, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA	SOLD	Y WHEELS $3,000 $22,995
7H215	PEARL, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA	SOLD	Y WHEELS $3,000 $22,995
7H216	BLUE, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC	SOLD	Y WHEELS $3,000 $22,995

MITSUBISHI

LANCER ES

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7M014	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$19,995
7M017	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$19,995
7M024	BLUE, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC	SOLD	WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
7M026	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M027	RED, 4 CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK	SOLD	WHEELS $4,500 $20,495
7M029	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M030	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M031	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

LANCER ES

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7M032	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M033	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M034	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

OUTLANDER

7M011	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 2WD SPORT	$3,000	$24,995
7M022	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995
7M036	SILVER 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at Agat Bay, W-517, Orote Point

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay within the following coordinates: 13° 23”N/144° 35”E during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 5, from 4pm to 8pm
- Sept. 6, from 3pm to 8pm
- Sept. 7, from 1pm to 6pm

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 5, from 6pm to 10pm
- Sept. 6, from 10:30am to 10pm
- Sept. 8, from 9am to 3pm

Training will also take place at Orote Point on Sept. 6 from noon to 4pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40’ 00”N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. ***(PR)***

Surviving suicide loss at Sept. grief support group

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

In honor of Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month, we will have a special presentation by a guest speaker on the topic of surviving suicide loss. Anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide is encouraged to attend.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionate-friends.org. ***(TCF)***

Veterans benefits outreach

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a veterans benefits outreach on Sept. 8, 2017, from 9am to 3pm, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. This will be a one-on-one outreach. Kalani Echang, legal administrative specialist, will be available to answer questions and take your claims.

For an appointment call Ruth Coleman at 322-0035.

All veterans, family members, and veteran widowers are encouraged to avail to their services. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting on Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have a general membership meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort. The luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting starts promptly at noon.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman will talk about the Prevailing Wage Survey and update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan. Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda will share information about the Japan Exchange and Teaching program.

We will also launch a new project of the Saipan Young Professionals Committee, which will engage the entire community in enhancing the lives of the youth. ***(SCC)***

CNMI Scholarship deadline for NMC’s PLA Program extended

The CNMI Scholarship Office has extended the deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Prior Learning Assessment program to Sept. 8, 2017. Students who would like to apply for financial aid for NMC’s PLA program can submit a scholarship application to the CNMI Scholarship Office in Capitol Hill no later than Sept. 8, 2017. For more information, contact Raymond Muna by calling 237-6746 or emailing raymond.muna@marianas.edu. Additional information is also available at marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam to test Giant Voice system

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct routine testing of the vital communication and advance warning system, “Giant Voice,” on Sept. 5 starting at 3pm. Residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers should only hear short verbal tests of the system, including warning tones. This is a monthly test that typically falls on the first Monday of each month. ***(PR)***

JKPL closed until Tuesday

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will resume normal hours on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017. It will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, and Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017. ***(PR)***

Philippine e-passports now ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with honorary consul Eli Arago in the CNMI, is now releasing new passports to those who renewed their passport last July 10,11,12 and 13, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1pm is break time). Bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-COTA/FTA-205

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY”

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 22, 2017** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NAURU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DPL-209

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 05, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

“60 MONTHS LEASE TO OWN ON A NEW DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE COPIER, NETWORK PRINTER, FAX & I-FAX SCANNER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE G. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY OF DPL

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-MUSEUM-204

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A 4 X 2 PICK-UP TRUCK WITH ACCESS CAB FOR THE NMI MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOHN DLR. GONZALES
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMHC IFB 2017-005
(Revised No. 01)
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 • TIME: 10:00 AM

“RENOVATION OF EXISTING TINIAN GYMNASIUM”

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC’s Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, August 28, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Tinian Field Office during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. Project Package set will be allowed and a non-refundable payment is required. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set.** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier’s check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian Mayors Office Conference Room on **Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders’ understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 15, 2017.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
NMCH Board Chairman
& Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement
& Supply

There is no risk-free level of exposure to second hand smoke.

Semi-open air bars and restaurants with airflows

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eliminate your exposure to cancer-causing compounds found in tobacco smoke.

The CNMI REACH program aims to improve enforcement of the CNMI Smoke Free Law as well as educate about the law. For more information please call 236-8791 or email heejlee@hawaii.edu.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DEQ-192

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“GROUNDWATER SAMPLING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE, A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY”

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER AUGUST 22, 2017 FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO derekchambers@becq.gov.mp QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE EMAILED TO derekchambers@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 07, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-25

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

“REPAINTING PROJECT, WOMEN, INFANTS, &CHILDREN (WIC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD AT 9:00A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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GOOD CONDITION MILEAGE 12,591
2015 Toyota Sienna LE
8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R
NOW $34,499*

EXCELLENT CONDITION MILEAGE 11,885
2015 Sienna LE van
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2016 Yaris 4-DR Hatchback, FWD
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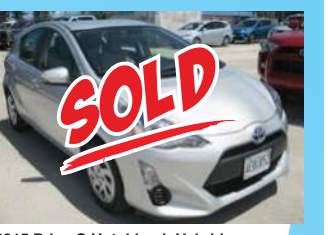
NOW $15,499*

2016 Yaris Hatchback Sedan
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, White,
STK#U17-061R
NOW $15,699*

2015 Prius C Hatchback Hybrid
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, White
STK#U17-063R
NOW $16,399*

2015 Prius C Hatchback Hybrid
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, White,
STK#U17-067R
NOW $16,599*



2015 Prius C Hatchback Hybrid
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver,
STK#U17-062R
NOW $16,599*

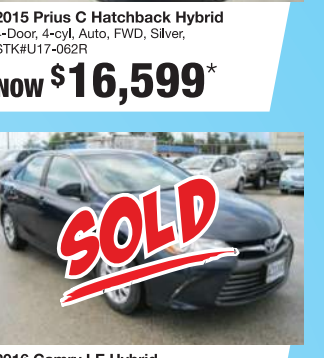
2014 Tacoma AC
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Red, STK#U17-087T
NOW $18,899*

2014 Scion FRS Coupe 2-Door
4-cyl, Manual 6-speed, RWD, Orange, STK#R17-020F
WAS $20,999
NOW $19,999*

2015 Prius V Hatchback Hybrid
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Lt. Blue,
STK#U17-064R
NOW $21,799*

2017 Corolla IM, 4-door Hatchback
Pearl, STK#T17-02578
WAS $23,399
NOW $22,199*

2015 Subaru Forester 2.15i Premium SUV, AWD
Auto, 4-cyl, Silver, STK#U17-080P
NOW $21,999*



2016 Camry LE Hybrid
4-Door, 4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, Dark Blue
STK#U17-079R
NOW $24,799*

2016 RAV4 LE AWD
4-cyl, Auto, Blue, STK#U17-065R
NOW $25,899*

2016 Tacoma AC PreRunner 4x2
4-cyl, Auto, White, STK#U17-066R
NOW $26,899*

2015 Tacoma DC PreRunner 4x2
4-cyl, Auto, Bronze, STK#U17-071T
NOW $27,699*

2015 Highlander LE
Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, 4-cyl, Gray,
STK#R17-021F
NOW $29,999*

2017 Tacoma DC PreRunner 4x2
4-cyl, Auto, Black
STK#U17-018F
NOW $30,599*

2016 Highlander LE, FWD
4-cyl, Auto, Blue, STK#U17-086R
NOW $30,999*

2016 PreRunner 4x2, Double Cab
Silver, STK#U16-141P
WAS $36,699
NOW $31,099*

2016 4Runner SR5 4x4
V-6, Auto, Black, STK#U17-068R
NOW $34,899*

2016 4Runner 4X4 SR5
3rd Row, Gray, STK#T16-11090
WAS $40,999
NOW $38,999*

2016 Tacoma 4x4 Double Cab, TRD Off Road
V-6, Auto, Silver, STK#U17-079P
NOW $39,399*

2016 Tacoma TRD 4x4 Double Cab
Long Bed, Gray, STK#U17-051T
WAS $42,899
NOW $41,199*

2016 Tundra Crew Max SR5
Gray, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-006F
WAS $48,599
NOW $47,499*

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Labor Day

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog sign a proclamation declaring September as Commonwealth Preparedness Month during the start of the Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base on Friday.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality took part in the Labor Day festivities last Friday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The Department of Public Safety took part in the Labor Day festivities last Friday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Department of Public Lands staff poses for a photo last Friday during the Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The Saipan Mayor's Office staff pose for a picture last Friday during the Labor Day celebration held at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Government employees and their families gather at the Garapan Fishing Base last Friday during the annual Labor Day celebration.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resource took part in the Labor Day festivities last Friday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Government agencies line up for the obstacle course race last Friday during the Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Ex-MCS student completes 1st year pre-med

Blake Anthony Muña Reyes has completed his first year of the Pre-Medical Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Reyes

Reyes, the son of Gerald and Joni Reyes, earned his acceptance through academic excellence, discipline, demeanor, and several other factors.

With close to 2,000 applicants, the Pre-Medical Academy is the school district's original medical magnet institution designed for those interested in becoming doctors, dentists, pharmacists, veterinarians, and nurses. It focuses on a "real-life" medical approach by incorporating virtual autopsies, suturing, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as practiced in the medical field.

Pre-medical students experience the academic and career standards of terminology, equipment operation & care, and the fundamental principles of medicine.

The grandson of Charles P. Reyes Sr./Bernie T. Palacios and Anthony P./Trinidad S. Muña, Reyes is a member of the National Honor Society, having exhibited academic excellence since his early years at the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center.

He has acquired numerous awards and recognitions, not only from Mount Carmel School, Oleai Elementary School, and Faiss Middle School in Las Vegas, Nevada, but from U.S. Presidents as well. ***(PR)***

Water outage in San Vicente, Upper Dandan, Papago

There was an emergency water service interruption in the San Vicente, Upper Dandan, and Papago areas yesterday due to a burnt-out 50-horsepower pump and motor.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. were making the necessary repairs and anticipate completion by 6pm last night. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(CUC)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-037

CONSULTANCY SERVICES - REPLACEMENT OF 1 ENGINE SYSTEM - SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Consultancy Services including procurement support, project management, engineering and design services of the Replacement of 1 Engine System (No. 8 –10 to13 MW, capacity) at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Consultant shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of verifiable experience and a track record of designing, modification and installation of diesel fuel or dual fuel power plants, among other attributes noted in the RFP documents.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission CPUC.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal and hence the attendance of the pre-proposal meeting and site visit is mandatory.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-17-037– Consultancy Services - Replacement of 1 Engine System"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 20, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email william.gilmore@cugov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ACCOUNTANT

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications:
An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence.
CPA required.
Experience working on non-profit fiscal management and federal grants.
Must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland.
Must have own transportation, with documented insurance, registration and a valid driver's license.

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
Quickbooks and Microsoft Excel expertise.
Familiarity with 2 CFR, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, et. al.

Classification & Salary Range: Part-time, Non-Exempt. 20 – 30 hours per week.
$20.00/hr to $25.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications)

Copies of the full Position Description are available through maisie@endviolencenmi.org or via hard copy at the NMCADSV office (directions below).

Application Deadline and Submission Information:
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, September 15, 2017.
If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only.
Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted via email to maisie@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)** at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance, proof of Certification, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2015-MU-AX-0003 and Grant # G-1701MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW-17-RFP-028

A/E DESIGN FOR THE CONVENIENCE CENTER/MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION KAGMAN AND AS-GONNO, SAIPAN CNMI

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for A/E Design for the Convenience Center/Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station Kagman and As-Gonno, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **September 5, 2017** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **September 21, 2017**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **October 6, 2017**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 30%
4. Schedule of Completion – 20%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW-17-RFP-028". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 11, 2017**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **October 11, 2017**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 11, 2017** – AND must be received no later than **October 20, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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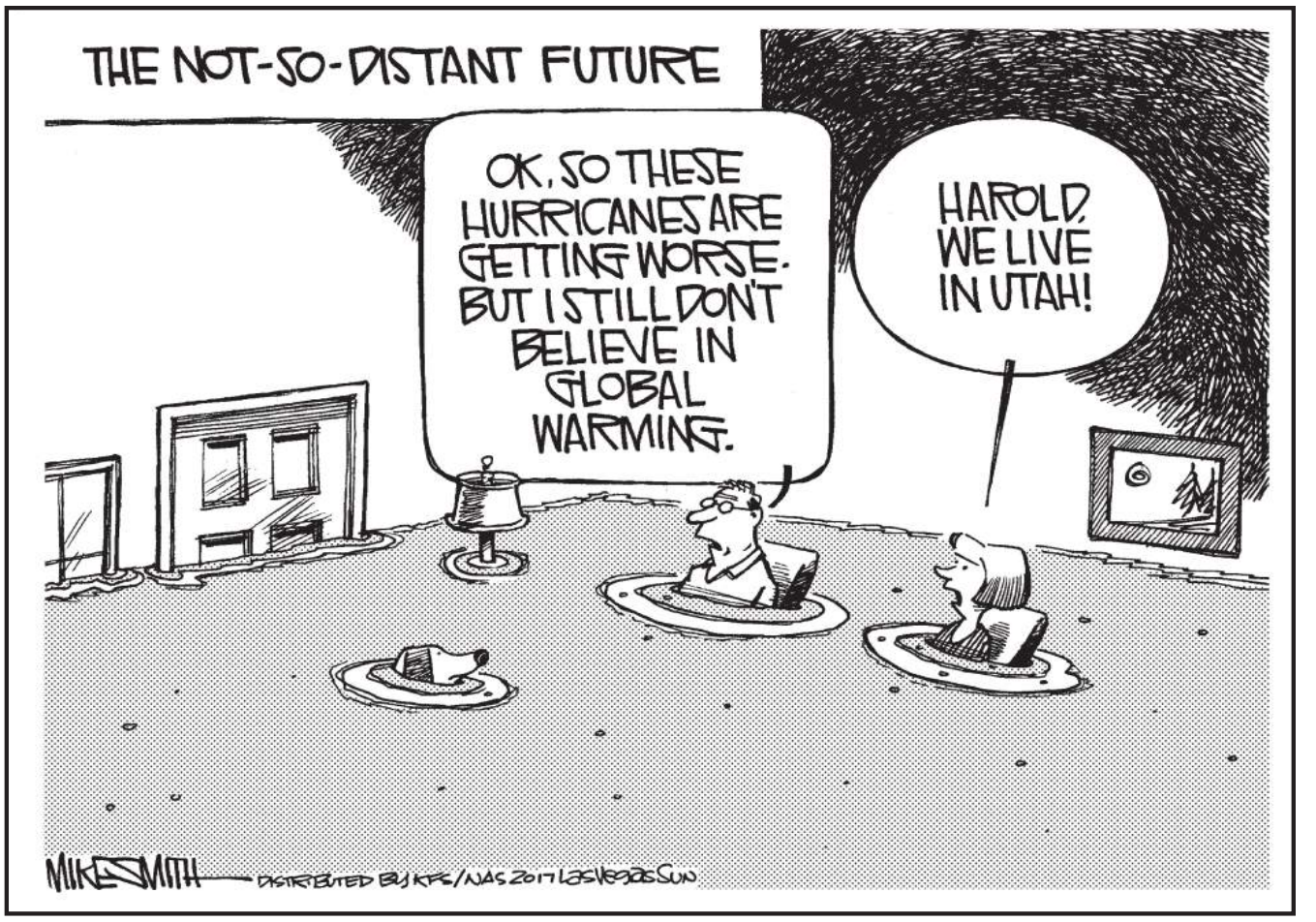
THE NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE
OK, SO THESE HURRICANES ARE GETTING WORSE. BUT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IN GLOBAL WARMING.
HAROLD, WE LIVE IN UTAH!
MIKE SMITH
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/LAS VEGAS SUN 2017

EDITORIAL

Why Afghanistan matters: The US cannot let this battered land fall to terrorists

There are places in the world so potentially volatile that the U.S. cannot leave them to the ebb and flow of geopolitics. The Korean Peninsula and the Middle East come immediately to mind. Afghanistan also belongs on that list—something President Donald Trump has finally come to realize, seven months after taking office.

Trump is poised to authorize sending roughly 4,000 more U.S. troops to the South Asian country, the site of the longest war in America's history. Like their countrymen already in Afghanistan, these Americans won't be a combat force. They'll carry out counterterrorism missions and advise Afghan officers fighting on the front lines against a resurgent Taliban.

Until Monday, Trump had said little about the Afghan conflict, and had not acted on pleas from top military advisers to beef up the U.S. military contingent in Afghanistan. Instead, he had focused on the Islamic State's presence in northern Iraq and Syria, while keeping Afghanistan as a policy to be determined.

Trump was right to continue helping the Iraqi government root out Islamic State from that country's second largest city, Mosul, and right to arm Syrian Kurdish fighters in their bid to defeat Islamic State in Raqqa, the militant group's Syrian stronghold. The Islamic State's footprint in Iraq and Syria has shrunk considerably, and continues to shrink.

We also think he's right to broaden the U.S. role in Afghanistan. That country matters—this war matters—because America can pay a high price when it glances away from lands vulnerable to terrorist takeover. Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, paid that price in Syria and Iraq. Obama's troop withdrawal from Iraq in 2011 left that country in a state of chaos, and Islamic State rose from the ashes of al-Qaida in Iraq. Obama's policy in Syria was halfhearted and troubled—recall the $500 million train-and-equip program for Syrian rebel fighters that yielded only a handful of troops. Many factors contributed to the Islamic State burgeoning into the world's most feared terrorist group, but Obama's reluctance to take stronger stands in Iraq and Syria played a part.

Is there a danger of Afghanistan again becoming a terrorist haven, as it once was for al-Qaida before 9/11? Without a doubt. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's military can't tamp down the carnage, and only 8,400 U.S. and 5,000 NATO troops are there now to train and support them. Ambushes and suicide bomb attacks kill Afghan security forces and civilians with harrowing regularity. According to the United Nations, 11,418 civilians were killed in the country last year—the most since the U.N. started tallying casualties in 2009. Taliban insurgents now hold sway over vast stretches of territory—the most since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

Islamic State militants also have established a foothold in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Last week a booby trap

See WHY on Next Page

Teens constantly connected, increasingly unhappy

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish is a radio host and a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Jean Twenge had never seen anything like it. The San Diego State University professor in personality psychology had been studying generational differences for 25 years, since she was a 22-year-old Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan. Her research had generated more than 120 scientific publications.

In 2012, when the proportion of Americans who own smartphones surpassed 50 percent, she noticed abrupt changes in teen behavior and emotional states.

"In these big national surveys of teens that I keep an eye on, there started to be some pretty sudden changes in the ways teens use their time and how they said they were feeling in their mental health," she said. "And at first I thought maybe it could be a blip for a year or two, but it kept going."

Among other things, teens are not hanging out as much with friends, in no rush to drive, dating less, having less sex, and getting less sleep. Most alarming, despite their continual connectivity, they are lonely. And rates of teen depression and suicide have skyrocketed since 2011.

"On these big surveys there are six questions that asked about loneliness, including, 'How often do you feel lonely?' and, 'How often do you feel left out?' And the responses show that same pattern of mental health not having done much, or even gotten a little bit better, until 2007," she said. "Then they start to tick up, and in 2012 those feelings of loneliness and feeling left out shoot upward. And that, of course, is maybe due to social media, where teens can see everything that their friends are doing that they didn't get invited to."

The result of Twenge's deep dive into multigenerational data of more than 11 million individuals, cutting across income, racial, and regional boundaries, is her new book: "iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy—and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood—and What That Means for the Rest of Us."

Twenge seeks to add to the current generational demarcations of boomers, genXers and millennials with the iGen—those who were born between 1995 and 2012. What she calls the iGen have never known a world without smartphones. Yes, millennials were raised with internet access but not constant connectivity.

"I settled on '95 because those teens who are around 17 years old or so showed those sudden changes around 2012," she said. "Also, 1995 just happens to be the year the internet was commercialized. So iGen are the ones who have never known a world without the internet."

"The devices they hold in their hands have both extended their childhoods and isolated them from true human interaction," she writes.

The book is chock-full of information, often represented in graphs, that show a continuum of data points regarding teen emotional health and then a decline once we enter the age of the smartphone, beginning with the 2007 release of the iPhone.

"It's not an exaggeration to describe iGen as being on the brink of the worst mental-health crisis in decades," she told me. "Much of this deterioration can be traced to their phones. It's not just the technology, I should stress, it's really the social media, which is the most common risk they are facing."

According to her research, teens who spend more time than average on screen activities are more likely to be unhappy, and those who spend more time on non-screen activities are more likely to be happy. And many of the problems are most pronounced among girls.

"I found that teens are spending less time with their friends in person," Twenge said. "They're not hanging out with their friends as much or going to movies or going to the mall or riding around in cars or going to parties as much as they did even 10 years ago. And that's probably because they're spending so much time communicating with their friends through their phones. And that is also another really key piece of why these mental-health issues have started to go up so steeply. It's not just that they're spending time with the screens, which isn't very fulfilling and probably has negative effects, but also not doing these in-person activities, which are beneficial."

So, what to do? The good news is there is no need to go cold turkey.

"Sporadic use is unlikely to be harmful," she said. "Electronic device use was linked to unhappiness and mental-health issues only after more than two hours of use a day."

Parents should consider installing apps that limit time spent on smartphones and that limit teens to one social-media site. Twenge, a mother of two iGen daughters, favors Snapchat.

"It's a really stressful thing where there's this constant social comparison—how everybody you know only puts the positive stuff on social media," she said. "The constant worrying about 'How many likes did I get on that?' And feeling anxious when you don't get enough likes, and then try to cultivate your life in your image so you can get more likes. It's really no wonder that there's

See TEENS on Page 11

Speaking English no threat to German culture

By OLIVER BILGER
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Germany will elect a new parliament Sept. 24, and polls indicate that Chancellor Angela Merkel, head of the Christian Democratic Union party, is likely to be re-elected to a fourth term. With the outcome seemingly a foregone conclusion, the campaign hasn't been too exciting. Fierce discussions? Heated debates? Nowhere.

Into this vacuum stepped Jens Spahn, a 37-year-old conservative, whose recent newspaper commentary has sparked considerable attention in Germany. His concern is the use of English in Berlin—in particular, that German speakers are giving up their native language. This, in Spahn's view, relegates German to secondary status in the nation's capital.

The attack was triggered by Spahn's observations of customers and waiters in restaurants and bars speaking English instead of German. "It drives me up the wall," he said, "the way waiters in Berlin restaurants only speak English." Spahn ripped into them in Die Zeit, calling them "elitist hipsters" who hang out together and refuse to mingle with "normal Germans."

Spahn compared contemporary Germans' use of the foreign language to the courtly elite's embrace of French in the 19th century, when the language was used as a tool to distance the upper class from the society's uneducated lower class.

It is important to note that Spahn is not some backbench politician in need of attention. He serves as the junior finance minister in Merkel's government, and is seen by some as a potential chancellor. So people are paying attention to his broadside.

Using English, Spahn wrote, does not make a person appear cosmopolitan, but rather shows one's "provincial self-dwarfishness." He worries about Germans' feeling alienated from their homeland because they constantly hear English and also that a "a totally new type of parallel society has developed: young people from around the world who keep to themselves. "

The issue is more farce than serious problem. Some districts of Berlin have attracted large numbers of American expatriates in recent years. Restaurants and bars employ staff from across Europe, and sometimes, menus and daily specials are written in English. But the new English speakers are often just glad to find a job that does not require German language skills that they may be working on but have not yet mastered. As for young people sticking to themselves—that is hardly a surprise and not linked to language. And in some situations, it makes sense for Germans to switch to English if it is the common language. This is a courtesy, not a denial of cultural background or an election-year scandal worthy of debate.

Perhaps the real intent of Spahn's commentary was to address an issue that is of concern to Germans: refugees in the country, and their integration.

Using English, Spahn wrote, does a disservice to migrants who devote time and energy to learning German and contributes to "a new intensified form of elitist-global tourism" that excludes people who do not speak English. "Coexistence can only work in Germany if we all speak German," he wrote. But he labors to connect these two issues. When it comes to a necessary integration of refugees, Germany has several problems to solve—language is just one of many.

Spahn's essay has sparked ridicule across social media. People understand that English is the lingua franca of our day. This is especially true in Germany, which welcomes tourists from around the globe—who spend their money there—and where countless companies produce high-quality products for world markets.

Germany has to keep up with neighboring countries in Europe, where English is more widespread and better taught. Fortunately, the country's schools recognize that we are living in a globalized world. They have begun to improve their language curriculum and are teaching foreign languages in earlier grades, sometimes even in kindergarten.

Speaking English is a benefit and no threat for the German or any other national culture. Even Spahn's ministry acknowledges this truth.

On a recent tweet inviting young people to an event, the Finance Ministry wrote: "Btw we are fluent in English et en francais!"

Oliver Bilger is a writer for Berlin's Der Tagesspiegel *newspaper who is working with the* Philadelphia Inquirer *as part of the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship Program. Reader may email him at obilger@phlly.com.*

How do you solve a problem like North Korea?

The first step in thinking through a problem is to ask whether it's a problem at all. Problems without solutions, the saying goes, aren't problems. They're facts.

Some people argue that a nuclear-armed North Korea is less of a problem and more of a fact. Murderous doughboy Kim Jong Un will never give up his nuclear toys. And let's face it: He would be stupid to. Perhaps the one true lesson of the last half-century of geopolitics is that the only way ambitious criminal regimes can protect themselves from outside threats is to have a nuclear deterrent. That was probably one of the last thoughts to go through Muammar Gadhafi's mind before the Libyan dictator was killed by a U.N.-backed mob.

Advocates of more "strategic patience" argue that we should just accept a nuclear-armed North Korea and rely on the time-tested policy of nuclear deterrence.

It's not a bad argument, but it has problems. Nuclear weapons have uses other than simply laying waste to cities. The chief one, as I already mentioned, is they take regime change off the table forever. Hence North Korea's primary demand: permanent recognition of the illegitimate regime's legitimacy.

Nukes also provide all manner of maneuvering room. For instance, Iran, another country with a horrible government, wants a nuclear arsenal very badly. While the Israelis are worried—for understandable reasons—that the Iranians might one day use it against Israel, that's not the only reason it would be bad for Iran to have the bomb. Iran wants to be a regional hegemon able to meddle far beyond its own borders. Having nukes makes that much easier because it raises the stakes of any military confrontation.

North Korea, the so-called Hermit Kingdom, does not have any territorial ambitions, nor is it much interested in interacting with the rest of the world. The regime's existence depends on keeping the population ignorant of just how terrible they have it compared with nearly every other country in the world.

But the North Korean regime is best understood as a monarchy that operates a criminal enterprise. It makes much of its money through counterfeiting, sex and drug trafficking, and numerous other schemes.

Among its biggest profit centers is extortion from the "international community." For 25 years it has been taking bribes to delay its nuclear program, as President Trump rightly noted on Twitter recently. And, obviously, the regime lied every time.

North Korea has also exported nuclear and missile technology to rogue nations such as Iran and Syria. Who really thinks that Kim will give up his business model?

If it were easy, the wisest course of policy would be to decapitate the North Korean regime. But that wouldn't be easy at all. A conventional war would be over relatively quickly—so long as China stayed out of it—but not quickly enough to prevent the destruction of South Korea's capital and the deaths of millions of people, including thousands of Americans.

Another widely discussed solution would be to induce China to overthrow the regime and install a puppet government. China could probably do it relatively easily. It surely has lots of North Korean generals on the payroll already.

But there are problems with this, too. China would demand a high price: total removal of American forces in South Korea and a tacit acknowledgement that China is the uncontested hegemon of the region. Such a "grand bargain would effectively transfer America's dominance to China," Hoover Institution scholar Michael Auslin writes in the Los Angeles Times. "No matter how the White House spun such a deal, world leaders would infer that the U.S. had gone hat in hand to China."

The impact on South Korean politics, never mind Japan's, would be tumultuous at best.

So what to do? Well, the first thing is to recognize that there are no good solutions. But perhaps the least bad option would be to openly declare that America already considers the North Korean regime to be China's puppet, and that North Korean misdeeds are really Chinese misdeeds.

That would come at a price, too. But it would incentivize China either to rein in the North Korean regime or, eventually, get rid of it.

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.*

TEENS

From Page 10

more anxiety and depression when you think about it that way."

Perhaps most important, don't allow teens access to the device after they go to bed.

My advice after being consumed with her book? That we all make the data contained in her book a point of discussion with our kids.

WHY

From Page 10

laid by the terror group killed an American soldier from Utah and injured 11 fellow troops.

While Trump inherited the chaos that is Afghanistan, it's his watch now. It's a relief to see him finally forging an Afghan strategy, because so much is at stake.

Allowing the Taliban, Islamic State and other groups to succeed there creates two perilous scenarios: It turns the country into a rogue state, and thus an ideal training ground for terrorists with designs on attacking targets in the U.S., Europe and beyond. And it supplies militant leaders fodder for their online propaganda to inspire new attacks by lone wolves or sleeper cells.

Left on its own, the fractured, inept Afghan government likely won't be able to turn the tide against the Taliban. The Afghan army needs a stronger boost from U.S. and NATO troops, who can help Kabul's military hurt the insurgency enough that Taliban leaders see the value in beginning peace talks. Those talks are the only way Kabul and Washington can break free from the quagmire the Afghan conflict has become.

Every president who faces deployment decisions knows the danger of sending more young men and women into war zones. But letting rogue groups dig deeper into Afghanistan is the greater long-range danger to America. Trump is correct to increase the U.S. role there.

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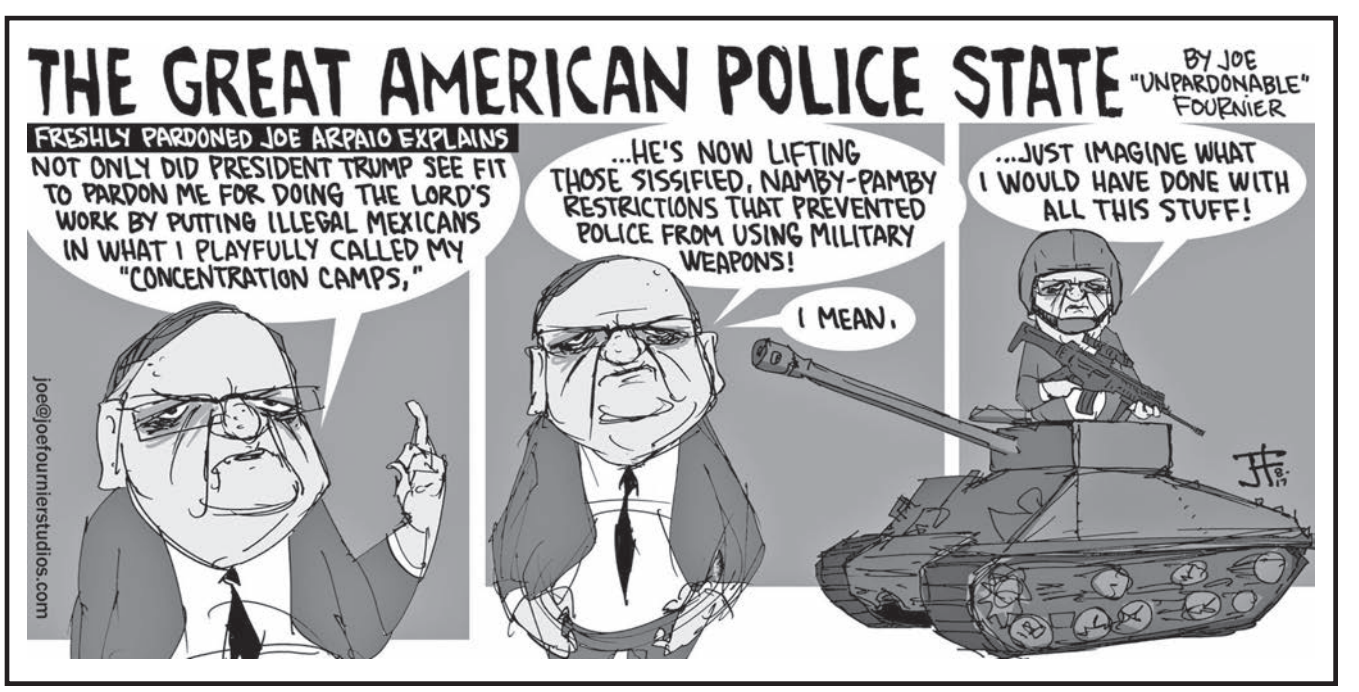

THE GREAT AMERICAN POLICE STATE
BY JOE "UNPARDONABLE" FOURNIER
FRESHLY PARDONED JOE ARPAIO EXPLAINS
NOT ONLY DID PRESIDENT TRUMP SEE FIT TO PARDON ME FOR DOING THE LORD'S WORK BY PUTTING ILLEGAL MEXICANS IN WHAT I PLAYFULLY CALLED MY "CONCENTRATION CAMPS,"
...HE'S NOW LIFTING THOSE SISSIFIED, NAMBY-PAMBY RESTRICTIONS THAT PREVENTED POLICE FROM USING MILITARY WEAPONS!
I MEAN,
...JUST IMAGINE WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITH ALL THIS STUFF!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.
▲87° ▼78°

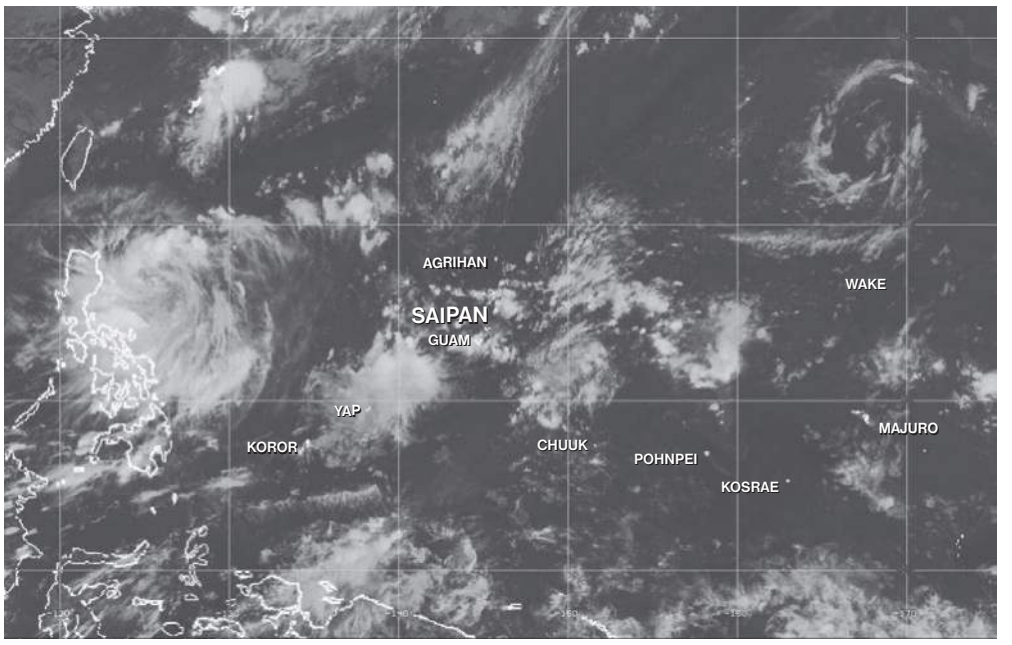
WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest models, especially GFS, have a more unsettled pattern for the Marianas than previous runs, with more moisture and instability. In addition, a TUTT cell is evident E of Saipan in water vapor imagery, and the GFS shows it moving west the next couple of days. As a result of all this, have extended mostly cloudy skies and isolated thunderstorms through Friday night, and these conditions could persist even beyond that time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	63° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°
New York	Thunderstorms	88° / 72°
Osaka	Cloudy	88° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Busan	Showers	81° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	82° / 63°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	70° / 60°
Seoul	Showers	79° / 64°
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 72°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	89° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:05 AM	LOW TIDE	0.90
6:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
1:19 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.04
7:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:51 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	-	5:44 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	-	6:38 AM	7:13 PM
Friday	-	7:31 AM	7:57 PM
Saturday	-	8:26 AM	8:42 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Getting the news out

YoungStyle contributor Alex Megino sits down with *Saipan Tribune* editor Jayvee Vallejera for a question-and-answer interview:

Question: What is it like to be in a news world? How did you career begin?

Answer: Being in mass media is not just about going to the office and working eight hours. It means knowing about what is going on with the rest of the world 24 hours a day. So even at home, I monitor the news to know what will be in tomorrow's news. As soon as I wake up, I check the news, mostly the online portals of Reuters and the Associated Press. For TV, I prefer the BBC.

I actually got started by editing my classmates' essay homework when I was still in elementary school. They would ask me to look at their essays before submitting them to our teachers. I was hopeless at mathematics but English was more manageable. Later, I pursued journalism in college and majored in mass media.

Q: How do you filter stories? How often do you have to compromise between good news and bad news?

A: I usually filter stories according to what we call "news values" such as proximity, significance of the person involved, date, impact, etc. For example, the more people an event affects, the more important it is. Something that happened today is more important than something that happened last week. If I fall, that is not news. If President Trump falls, that is news. That means a story about Gov. Ralph Torres is more important than an event that happens to an ordinary person.

Most of the time, I don't have to choose between good news and bad news. I can usually find space for both stories. However, when I have to choose, I am again guided by news values. In the end, I have to choose which story will be more interesting to our readers and which story will result in more people buying the newspaper.

The same holds true when evaluating which stories go on the front page and which one goes inside. News values are very useful guides.

Q: What story do you see as the most intriguing?

A: I am a fan of science news, so I am always intrigued by stories that are related to biology, the environment, genetics, astronomy, geology, and even history. However, it has been proven in studies that people are more interested in crime stories, so these kinds of stories get bigger treatment.

Q: Is there competition between *Marianas Variety* and *Saipan Tribune*?

A: Yes, there is competition. However, the CNMI is a very small place, so it cannot be avoided that both newspapers sometimes have the same stories, and sometimes even the same headline. That is only coincidence, however.

I welcome this competition between the two newspapers because it benefits the reading public. Sometimes, we have stories that the *Variety* does not have and sometimes they have stories that we do not have. That is information that gets out and redounds to the benefit of the public.

Q: Are there times when you and *Marianas Variety* share information?

A: No, we don't. The *Saipan Tribune* has its own editorial team and the *Variety* also has its own team. The *Tribune* has its own reporter at the Legislature; the *Variety* also has its own reporter there. We are actually in competition for news stories every day. When we get an exclusive story, it is called a "scoop."

Q: What do you think about "YoungStyle" becoming a part of the *Saipan Tribune* again?

A: The *Saipan Tribune* had a YoungStyle section many years ago but it was discontinued as the wire services where we got our stories stopped doing them. I am very happy that we have been able to revive this section of the newspaper with the generous help of Ekaterina, since it gives our young readers a voice and a forum.

Q: How do you see it beneficial to children to read and participate in "YoungStyle's" publication?

A: The YoungStyle section is a big help to children because it will encourage them to read more and submit their drawings and other artwork. Hopefully, it will also encourage them to pursue other forms of writing, like poetry, essays, and interviews. And when children start reading at a young age, that will later help them when they go to high school and college.

Q: Is it within human power to change everyday news for better and how?

A: Most news stories emanate from human activity and we, as reporters and editors, only get our guidance from how humans around us behave. So, yes, I do believe that it is within our power to change the news. If it is for better news, it will depend on how humans around us behave. We can only report on what is going on around us and we cannot make up stories. So if the humans around us behave well, then the stories that will come out will reflect that. If they behave badly, then the stories in newspapers will also show that. To say it in another way, mass media does not exist in a vacuum. What we produce and write about will always reflect what is going on around us.

Interview By
ALEX MEGINO
TANMS Student, 8th Grade

Wonderful Mashed Potato Pancakes

BY NATASHA'S KITCHEN

4 cups mashed potatoes*
2 cups (8 oz) shredded mozzarella cheese
1 large egg
1/4 cup flour (or up to 1/2 cup flour for creamier potatoes)
2 to 3 Tbsp chives, chopped
1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
Light Olive oil or Canola oil to sauté
Sour cream to serve

Instructions

How to Make Mashed Potatoes:

Fill a 5-quart pot with water. Add 1 tbsp salt and peeled quartered russet potatoes (2 lbs or about 7 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered). Cook until easily pierced with fork. Drain well and mash in 4 tbsp butter then let cool to room temperature. Mashed potatoes can be made one to three days ahead.

How to Make Mashed Potato Pancakes:

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine 4 cups mashed potatoes, 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, 1 large egg, ¼ cup flour and 2 tbsp chopped chives. Use a potato masher to mash the mixture together until well mixed. If the potatoes are too loose to hold a patty shape, add flour a tablespoon at a time.

2. Place a heaping tablespoonful of potato mixture between your palms and form into a round, 1/3-inch thick patty. Dredge both sides of the pancake in bread crumbs and set on a cutting board. Repeat with remaining pancakes.

3. Heat a large non-stick pan over medium heat with enough oil to lightly cover the bottom of the pan. Once oil is hot, add patties in a single layer and sauté 3-4 minutes per side or until golden brown. Repeat with remaining patties, adding more oil as needed. I usually have 2 skillets going at once to finish sooner.

**This recipe works best with mashed potatoes that are not ultra creamy and buttery, and if they are, you may need a little more flour for them to hold a patty shape. This recipe is not intended for use with instant mashed potatoes.h*

A BRIEF LOOK BACK!

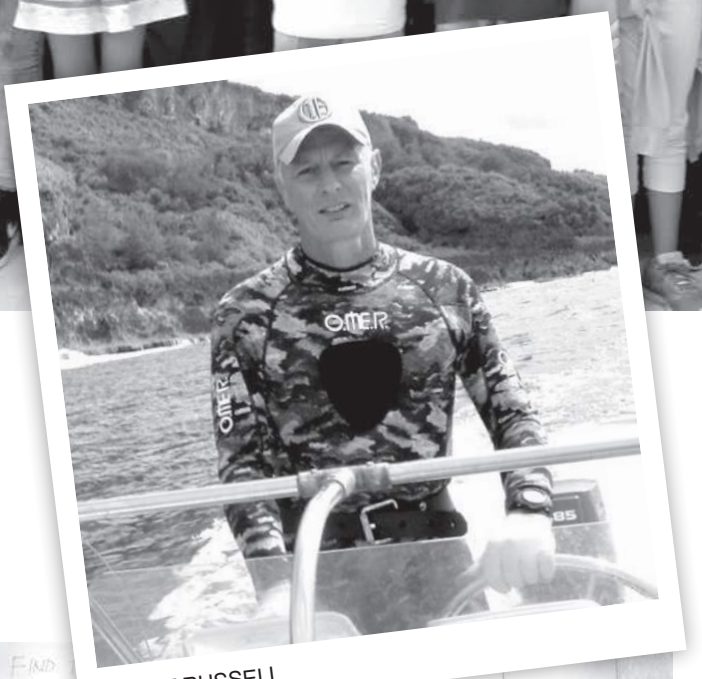
Thank you for your great stories!

Cheers to more amazing stories to come!

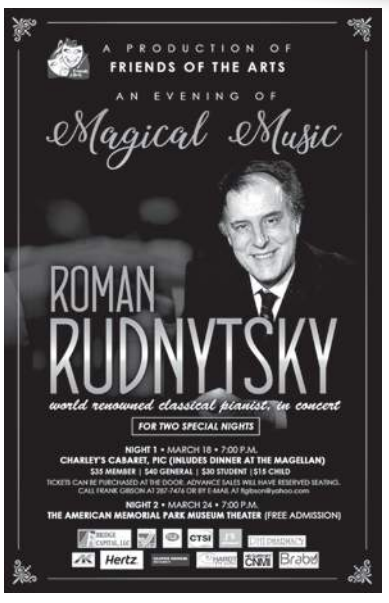
Jen Villagomez poses with her class.

WSR Elementary School principal Naomi Nishimura.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SCOTT RUSSELL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The poster for maestro Rudnytsky.

Genevieve Cabrera of the Historic Preservation Office.

Students of Chacha Ocean View Middle School.

Singing is a favorite hobby.

YoungStyle contributor Alex Megino shakes hands with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Skydiver Taylor Smallwood jumps with a tourist.

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

WHAT SONG DO NAVY-LOVING PIGS SING?

SENIOR	___	RINSE		GIANTS	___	STING	
DIAPER	___	DRAPE		VOWELS	___	LOVES	
DAYTON	___	TODAY		STREAM	___	TRAMS	
CHOKER	___	CHORE		ARMIES	___	SMEAR	
SALINE	___	NAILS		BAGGED	___	BADGE	
HOLLER	___	HELLO		RESHIP	___	PRIES	
TWISTY	___	WITTY					

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Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Voting sheet	_ _ _ _ O _	Classical dance style	_ _ _ _ E _
2. White Cliffs locale	_ O _ _ _	Scuba enthusiast	_ I _ _ _
3. Road trip inn	_ _ T _ _	Hobby shop kit	_ _ D _ _
4. Video game parlor	_ _ _ _ D _	Mysterious	_ _ _ _ N _
5. Mr. Fudd	_ _ M _ _	Village wise one	_ _ D _ _
6. Shaving foam	_ _ _ H _ _	The last mentioned	_ _ _ T _ _
7. Aesop's tale	F _ _ _ _	Dining furniture	T _ _ _ _
8. Beaker	_ _ A _ _	Lip luster	_ _ O _ _
9. Greater in years	_ L _ _ _	More peculiar	_ D _ _ _
10. Skimpy beachwear	_ _ _ _ _ I	Tour de France event	_ _ _ _ _ G

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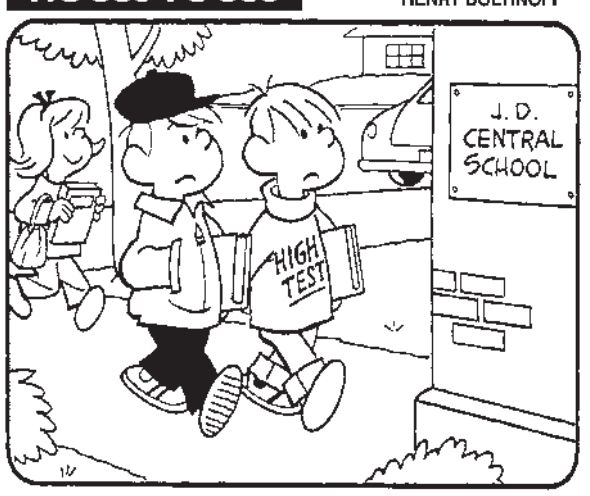
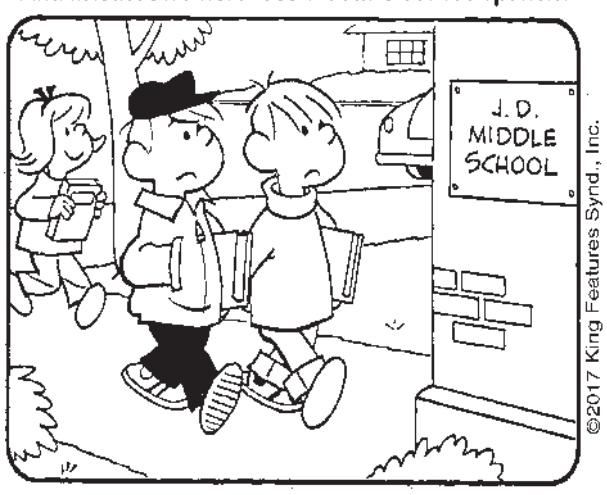
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Purse is missing. 2. Cap is different. 3. Sweater words are missing. 4. Book is moved. 5. Car is moved. 6. School name is different.

24 HOCUS FOCUS puzzles $3.50 • 24 Volumes • Order at: rbmamall.com

ARE YOU A SHOE-IN TO SOLVE THIS ONE? Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

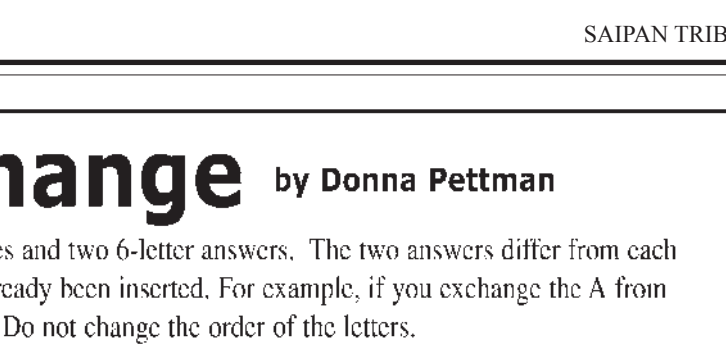
Answer: Starting with the "S" in the left-hand rail: "Strike while the iron is hot."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

A WORD BRIDGE



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. Sleeps in the daytime.
2. To persuade by pleading.
3. Beverage for a nervous person.
4. End-of-term ordeal.
5. A wind mover.
6. Slang for sailor.
7. To pay attention to.
8. Extremely angry.
9. Triangular sails.
10. Smoked salmon.

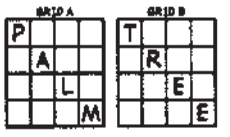
Answers: 1. Bat. 2. Coax. 3. Decaf. 4. Exam. 5. Fan. 6. Gob. 7. Heed. 8. Irate. 9. Jibs. 10. Lox.

A SENSITIVE STUMPER! Replace the letters on our sun worshiper's chest with the digits 0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest total possible.

Our answer: T=8, I=6, M=2, E=0, S=7, U=3, N=4, B=9, R=5 (8620 + 734 = 9354).

PUZZLES IN PARADISE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

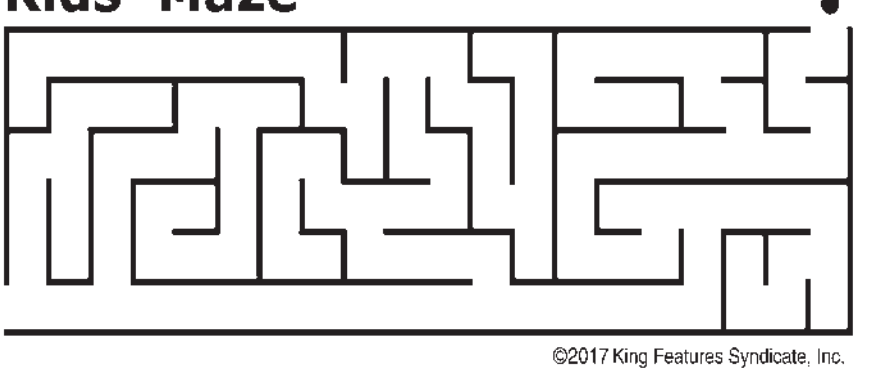
1. A military base.
2. A sudden attack
3. A tasty food store.
4. Great Dutch cheese.



1. Beats out another.
2. What the desert is.
3. Gave false testimony.
4. Produced by constructing.

Answers: 1. Post-tope. 2. Raid-and. 3. Deli-led. 4. Edam-made.

Kids' Maze



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Kids' Maze Solution

Even Exchange answers

1. Ballot, Ballet	6. Lather, Latter		
2. Dover, Diver	7. Fable, Table		
3. Motel, Model	8. Glass, Gloss		
4. Arcade, Arcane	9. Older, Odder		
5. Elmer, Elder	10. Bikini, Biking		

Puzzles4Kids Answer

SENIOR	O	RINSE	GIANTS	A	STING
DIAPER	I	DRAPE	VOWELS	W	LOVES
DAYTON	N	TODAY	STREAM	E	TRAMS
CHOKER	K	CHORE	ARMIES	I	SMEAR
SALINE	E	NAILS	BAGGED	G	BADGE
HOLLER	R	HELLO	RESHIP	H	PRIES
TWISTY	S	WITTY			

Business

Texas expects EPA to 'get on top of' toxic water risk

WASHINGTON (AP)—Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Sunday he expects the Environmental Protection Agency "to get on top" of the threat of possible water contamination after an Associated Press report of highly toxic waste sites flooded in the Houston area.

"The EPA is monitoring that. The EPA is going to get on top of that," said Abbott, when asked on "Fox News Sunday" whether toxic floodwaters could pose a continuing health threat to Texas residents.

"We are working with the EPA to make sure that we contain any of these chemicals harming anybody in the greater Houston area or any other place," he said.

The Houston metropolitan area is home to more than a dozen Superfund sites, designated by the EPA as being among America's most intensely contaminated places. The AP surveyed seven of them and reported Saturday that all had been inundated with water, in some cases many feet deep, raising the concern that floodwaters may wash in pollution.

An EPA statement later confirmed the AP's reporting that the federal agency had not yet been able to physically visit the Houston-area sites, saying the sites had "not been accessible by response personnel." EPA staff had checked on two Superfund sites in Corpus Christi on Thursday and found no significant damage.

On Sunday, Abbott said there will always be a threat of contaminated water whenever there is a flood situation.

"What people need to do is they just need to be very cautious in the way they respond," he said. "Do things like wear gloves, wear a mask, wear clothing so that your skin is not going to brush up against what you're cleaning."

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said he was comfortable with the safety of Houston's drinking water, saying the Superfund sites were outside the city.

"Certainly, we would hope that the EPA would be on the ground now to take a look at those Superfund sites, to make sure that contamination is contained and limited," he said.

Abbott appeared on Fox and CNN's "State of the Union," while Turner spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press" and CBS' "Face the Nation."

Tips for making a mid-life career change

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: I am feeling somewhat uneasy about my upcoming career transition. In about six months, I plan to take early retirement and enter a completely new profession. After 30 years as a civilian engineer with the military, I recently became certified as a pharmacy technician and hope to find employment in that field.

During my career, I have managed million-dollar budgets, overseen award-winning programs and supervised up to 15 employees. But since none of this relates to being a pharmacy tech, I'm not sure how to demonstrate my worth to prospective employers.

To get my foot in the door, I have considered offering to fill in for absent employees during weekends, holidays and vacations. What are your thoughts about making this transition successful?

A: While your two career choices are indeed quite different, they require many of the same attributes, such as organizational ability, attention to detail and mastery of technical knowledge. So you should be ready with examples that illustrate your transferable skills. With many employers, your experience with the military will also be a plus.

On the other hand, interviewers will be understandably worried about your ability to adjust to a lower-level role. To ease their minds, be prepared to explain exactly what led you to choose this field and why you are excited about the change. Fortunately, your retirement income should alleviate any concerns about the inevitable pay cut.

If finding a full-time position proves difficult, taking temporary assignments is an excellent strategy. In addition to adding "real world" experience to your resume, you will also be able to develop valuable relationships. These professional contacts can provide helpful references, suggest networking opportunities and possibly even hire you.

As you begin this journey, remember that starting over in mid-life can be a tough emotional transition. After years of being valued for your knowledge and experience, becoming a newbie may seem both unfamiliar and unpleasant. But once you get through the initial learning curve, you should begin to feel much more comfortable.

Q: I'm trying to decide whether to give my former colleague a recommendation. "Heather" and I were co-workers for six months before she left to sell real estate. Because I think Heather is a terrific person, I had planned to write an online endorsement for her.

After thinking it over, however, I'm afraid that recommending a former employee might get me in trouble at work. Although I would like to help Heather succeed, I don't want to jeopardize my own career. What do you think I should do?

A: Unless Heather left on bad terms or works for a competitor, it's hard to see how praising her would get you in trouble. But if there actually could be serious consequences, you should err on the side of caution. After all, if Heather is good at her job, she will undoubtedly receive other endorsements.

Should you continue to be conflicted, the simple solution is to ask your boss whether a personal recommendation, with no mention of your company, is permissible. If the thought of asking makes you nervous, however, then you have answered your own question.

Nation

Sources: Trump is expected to end 'Dreamers' program

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is expected to announce that he will end protections for young immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children, but with a six-month delay, people familiar with the plans said Sunday.

The delay in the formal dismantling of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program would be intended to give Congress time to decide whether it wants to address the status of the so-called Dreamers in legislation, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking. But it was not immediately clear how the six-month delay would work in practice and what would happen to people who currently have work permits under the program, or whose permits expire during the six-month stretch.

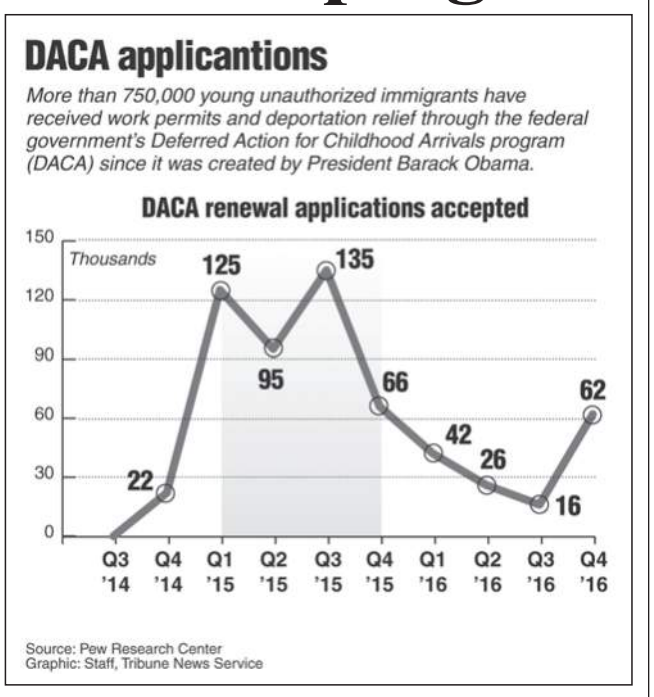
It also was unclear exactly what would happen if Congress failed to pass a measure by the considered deadline. Two people familiar with the president's thinking spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter ahead of a planned Tuesday announcement.

The president, who has been grappling with the issue for months, has been known to change his mind in the past and could still shift course. The plan was first reported by Politico Sunday evening.

Trump has been wrestling for months with what to do with the Obama-era DACA program, which has given nearly 800,000 young immigrants a reprieve from deportation and the ability to work legally in the form of two-year, renewable work permits.

The expected move would come as the White House faces a Tuesday deadline set by Republican state officials threatening to continue sue the Trump administration if the president did not end the program. It also would come as Trump digs in on appeals to his base as he finds himself increasingly under fire, with his poll numbers hanging at near-record lows.

Trump had been personally torn as late as last week over how to deal with what are undoubtedly the most sympathetic immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. Many came to the U.S. as young children and have no memories of or connections to the countries they were born in.



Mayor says Houston 'open for business' despite huge hurdles

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston's mayor insists that America's fourth-largest city is "open for business," but with areas under water, people not yet in their homes, and billions in damage to repair, major disasters that Harvey created are by no means resolved.

Mayor Sylvester Turner said much of the city was hoping to get back on track after Labor Day.

"Anyone who was planning on a conference or a convention or a sporting event or a concert coming to this city, you can still come," he told CBS. "We can do multiple things at the same time."

One worry, of further explosions at a damaged chemical plant, lessened after officials carried out a controlled burn Sunday evening of highly unstable compounds at the Arkema plant in Crosby. Three trailers had previously caught fire after Harvey's floodwaters knocked out generators.

Authorities said they would keep monitoring the air, and people living within a mile and a half of the site outside Houston are still evacuated. But floodwaters also have inundated at least five toxic waste Superfund sites near Houston and some may be damaged, though Environmental Protection Agency officials have yet to assess the full extent of what occurred.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott told CNN the EPA is "working on some of them already," but "they have restraints on their ability to check out some of them just simply because of the water."

Turner said Houston's drinking water hadn't been affected by the storm, but told CBS, "We would hope that the EPA would be on the ground now to take a look at those Superfund sites, to make sure that contamination is contained and limited."

Other issues across the region: too much water still in houses, no water to drink.

Utility crews went door-to-door Sunday shutting off power and warning those still in some waterlogged homes in western parts of the city that more flooding was possible—not from rain, but from releases of water from over-taxed reservoirs. Thousands of Houston dwellings were under mandatory evacuation orders, though about 300 people were thought to be refusing to leave.

People briefly returned Sunday to some homes in the area, which included brick two-story and ranch homes bordering Buffalo Bayou, to try to salvage valuables.

More than a week since the storm hit, the 4 feet of water in her parents' home had receded just a foot, said Karen Mace. She was trying to retrieve family photos from the one-story ranch her parents built and have lived in for 56 years, which backs up to Buffalo Bayou.

Asia

AP

South Korean army's K-9 self-propelled howitzers move during a military exercise in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017.

S. Korea simulates attack on North's nuke site after test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Following U.S. warnings to North Korea of a "massive military response," South Korea's military on Monday fired missiles into the sea to simulate an attack on the North's main nuclear test site a day after Pyongyang detonated its largest ever nuclear test explosion.

The heated words from the United States and the military maneuvers in South Korea are becoming familiar responses to North Korea's rapid, as-yet unchecked pursuit of a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles that can strike the United States. The most recent, and perhaps most dramatic, advancement came Sunday in an underground test of what leader Kim Jong Un's government claimed was a hydrogen bomb, the North's sixth nuclear test since 2006.

In a series of tweets, President Donald Trump threatened to halt all trade with countries doing business with the North, a veiled warning to China, and faulted South Korea for what he called "talk of appeasement."

South Korea's military said its live-fire exercise was meant to "strongly warn" Pyongyang. The drill involved F-15 fighter jets and the country's land-based "Hyunmoo" ballistic missiles firing into the Sea of Japan.

The target was set considering the distance to the North's test site and the exercise was aimed at practicing precision strikes and cutting off reinforcements, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Each new North Korean missile and nuclear test gives Pyongyang's scientists invaluable information that allows big jumps in capability. North Korea is thought to have a growing arsenal of nuclear bombs and has spent decades trying to perfect a multistage, long-range missile to eventually carry smaller versions of those bombs.

Both diplomacy and severe sanctions have failed to check the North's decades-long march to nuclear mastery.

In Washington, Trump, asked by a reporter if he would attack the North, said: "We'll see." No U.S. military action appeared imminent, and the immediate focus appeared to be on ratcheting up economic penalties, which have had little effect thus far.

In briefs remarks after a White House meeting with Trump and other national security officials, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters that America does not seek the "total annihilation" of the North, but then added somberly, "We have many options to do so."

Mattis said the U.S. will answer any threat from the North with a "massive military response—a response both effective and overwhelming."

Mattis also said the international community is unified in demanding the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and that Kim should know Washington's commitment to Japan and South Korea is unshakeable.

The precise strength of the North's underground nuclear explosion has yet to be determined. South Korea's weather agency said the artificial earthquake caused by the explosion was five times to six times stronger than tremors generated by the North's previous five tests.

Indonesian Muslims protest Rohingya persecution

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Several hundred Muslim women demonstrated outside Myanmar's embassy in the Indonesian capital on Monday in the third day of protests calling for the government to take a tougher stance against persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority.

Dozens of armed police are guarding the embassy, which is cordoned behind barbed wire, after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at it on the weekend.

Protesters, organized by an Islamic group called Friends of Muslim Rohingya, shouted "Save Rohingya," and held big banners that read, "Unite the people to free Rohingya Muslims" and "Stop Muslim genocide in Myanmar!"

The violence in Myanmar and an exodus of tens of thousands of Rohingya from Rakhine state into Bangladesh began after insurgents attacked Myanmar police and paramilitary posts in what they said was an effort to protect their ethnic minority from persecution by security forces in the majority Buddhist country.

In response, Myanmar's military unleashed what it called "clearance operations." Human Rights Watch says satellite imagery shows 700 buildings were burned in the Rohingya Muslim village of Chein Khar Li, just one of 17 locations in Rakhine state where the rights group has documented burning of property.

Muslims protested against Myanmar's government in Jakarta on the weekend, setting fire to a picture of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi and further protests are set for this week. Local media reported that one group plans to stage a protest at Borobudur, a famous ancient Buddhist temple in central Java.

World

Arabs, Kurds unite against IS, but post-victory? 'God knows'

RAQQA, Syria (AP)—The two fighters, one an Arab sniper, the other his Kurdish commander, are each driven by a personal grudge against the Islamic State group. They are working side by side in an elite commando unit of the U.S.-backed forces fighting the militants in the Syrian city of Raqqa.

But they have vastly different visions of what happens once they succeed.

Abdullah, the Arab fighter, fears the militants' fall in Raqqa will only be the start of more turmoil. He worries it will unleash a wave of bloodshed among the area's Sunni Arab community as residents seek revenge on neighbors who joined the group.

For Erdal, the Kurd and the unit commander, the battle for Raqqa is a step toward realizing his people's dream of autonomy in the Kurdish heartland of northern Syria. Next, he and many other Kurds believe, will come a fight with their nemesis Turkey, which has sent troops into Syria in part to thwart Kurdish ambitions.

Another danger once IS falls is of a backlash among Raqqa's Sunni Arab population against the Kurds. Many in the community deeply resent Kurdish ambitions and see their hopes for self-rule as intended to break apart the country.

The two men's views reflect the differing priorities run through the alliance between Kurdish and Arab fighters in the Syrian Democratic Forces, which the United States forged together to wage the fight against the Islamic State group. The SDF has proven a startling success in bringing together Kurds and Arabs. The more experienced and organized Kurds dominate command and some units are purely Kurd or purely Arab, but most SDF units are mixed, with few signs among the fighters of the tensions plaguing their communities at large as Kurdish influence grows in northern Syria.

It is largely the hands-on U.S. support that ensures that cohesion, raising questions over what happens when the American role eventually pulls back. For Arab fighters, the force is a chance to get vital training, funds and experience from the Americans, working alongside U.S. special forces advisers on the front lines. U.S. officials say the SDF, estimated at 50,000 fighters, is 50 percent Arab, with new recruits coming from liberated areas in Raqqa province.

This week, IS released a grisly video warning Arabs not to join with the Kurds. "You will regret it," a bearded militant sitting by the banks of a river says, telling Arab tribes they will face "bitter revenge." The footage then shows militants beheading a captured Arab fighter.

The Kurds, meanwhile, see the alliance with the United States as essential to securing their hold across northern Syria "from the threat of an attack by Turkey or the Syrian regime," said Noah Bonsey, a Syria expert with the International Crisis Group. Moreover, the more they capture in eastern Syria the stronger their hand is in the future as all sides try to carve out zones of power in the country.

WORLD BRIEFS

Merkel, rival Schulz spar over Turkey in TV election debate

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her center-left rival, Martin Schulz, locked horns over how to deal with Turkey in their only televised debate Sunday, three weeks before the country's general election. Schulz, a former president of the European Union's legislative body, said he would end talks with Ankara about joining the bloc because of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian policies. "A point has been reached where we need to end the economic relationship, the financial relationship, the customs union and the accession talks," Schulz said during the 90-minute debate. Merkel, who has previously expressed doubts about Turkey ever joining the EU, refused to commit to the same move, but sharply criticized Erdogan's rule, saying that "Turkey is departing from all democratic practices at breakneck speed." "Whether we slam the door shut or Turkey does that is something we'll have to see," she said, adding that any move would need to be coordinated with other European countries.

Romanian coastguard intercepts boat carrying 87 migrants

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Romania's coastguard says it has intercepted a fishing vessel carrying 87 migrants in the Black Sea that was sailing toward the Romanian coast. A statement said border police spotted the vessel on Sunday morning east of the port of Midia outside Romania's territorial waters. The coastguard sent two patrol boats to identify the vessel and its passengers which sailed into Romanian waters. The statement said the boat did not respond to warnings to stop. Authorities found 48 men, 16 women and 23 minors on board. Border police will question the migrants. The statement did not provide the nationality of the migrants. Migrants are increasingly using the Black Sea route to reach Romania, which is not a member of the visa-free Schengen zone.

Italy police nab refugee as last suspect in beach gang rape

ROME (AP)—A Congolese asylum-hopeful with permission to stay in Italy for humanitarian reasons was nabbed aboard a train by police early Sunday as the last of a gang of four young males suspected of raping a Polish tourist on a beach, beating her companion unconscious and raping a Peruvian woman barely an hour later in the same Italian resort town of Rimini, authorities said. The man, identified as Guerlin Butungu, 20, was the only adult among the four suspects under arrest in the brutal case that triggered calls from Poland for the death penalty for the culprits and fueled already growing anti-migrant sentiment in Italy, where hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers have been given shelter over the last few years after rescue at sea from migrant smugglers' boats. Rimini police Chief Maurizio Improta described Butungu's arrest aboard a train at Rimini station. "The arrest this morning was doubly satisfying because putting the handcuffs on the fourth man were two women" police officers. "This symbolic gesture rendered justice to the victims of the violence," he said. Investigators were quoted as saying Butungu hoped to travel through Milan and then on to France to escape capture.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

Honda Clarity Electric: A plug-in BEV with midsize sedan style

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TNS

The battery-electric version of the Honda Clarity sedan can seat five, is stylish, quiet, quick and affordably priced. But with a range of only 89 miles between charges, it's facing tough competition from Chevy Bolt and Tesla Model 3.

Honda showed up early for the hydrogen fuel cell party, getting to market before Toyota's Mirai and Hyundai's Tucson with an early version of its current Clarity sedan.

Now the company is increasing its visibility on the EV scene with an all-electric Clarity—but arriving too late, critics will say, and with too little.

The Clarity BEV, Honda's first fully battery electric midsize car, is a five-passenger, plug-in sedan. Built on the same platform and fitted with the same body as the Clarity fuel-cell and hybrid variations, it's comfortable, quiet, quick off the mark and stylish.

Honda, having had success with its subcompact Fit EV, has gone to great pains to make its midsize electric car a winner, and it shows outside and in.

The body design is sleek and stylish. Not a compliance vehicle or a science experiment, it looks like a Honda. Only subtle signs, such as side air curtains and partial rear skirt fenders, intended to increase air flow and decrease drag, give it away as a BEV.

Inside, it feels like an upscale sedan, with leather on the seats and Ultrasuede on the doors and dash.

Driver and passenger space feels generous. The front seats are sporty and firm. The rear seats are broad and roomy, and big enough to accommodate five adults.

Even more impressive, for a battery electric vehicle, it has a full-size trunk. Honda is rightly proud of the fact that, in its three-car Clarity lineup, the motor/engine part of the machine is all under the hood and the battery/hydrogen part is all under the seats, leaving room for your golf bag in the traditional spot.

Around town, the electric Clarity is a stable scooter, dashing quickly from corner to corner in Normal mode and jetting there in Sport mode. (In Eco mode, which conserves energy, it does everything a little more sedately.) Honda's stats say the Clarity's electric motor makes 161 horsepower and 221 pound-feet of torque.

The automatic transmission can be placed in manual mode, allowing the driver to shift using steering-wheel-mounted paddles, which increases the sporty feel.

It handles well, too. Because the heavy lithium-ion battery lies flat at the bottom of the vehicle, the Clarity rides smoothly and corners sharply, holding the road well at speed.

On the highway, the Clarity is reassuringly quiet, returning to the cabin very little tire noise, and almost no wind noise, above the slight hum of the electric motor.

Even at 65 mph, and even in normal mode, there's plenty of punch. The Clarity accelerates and changes lanes with authority.

Generous side mirrors improve the Clarity's visibility, limited somewhat by the split rear window. A backup camera (which also clicks on when the right turn signal is deployed) helps for reversing, parking and lane changing, too.

Honda has included its Honda Sensing package as standard equipment on the Clarity. That means the car comes with adaptive cruise control, lane keep assist, lane departure warning, forward collision warning and collision mitigation braking.

Also standard is a very luminous and attractive infotainment screen. It's easy to operate—though I found it confusing to navigate between menus—and easy to read.

Many of the functions that would traditionally require a knob or button (radio station selection and audio volume, for example) are now manipulated with a finger tap or swipe. Drivers who don't want to look at the screen while moving also have the option of making some selections via buttons on the steering wheel.

The Clarity also comes with a number of other features that are almost useful. A key fob button unlatches the trunk—but doesn't cause the trunk lid to rise. A driver's seat memory setting remembers how you like to sit but doesn't always leave the setting there when you exit the vehicle. Plug-in spots for electronic devices are nearby, in the center console, but placed so low that they're difficult to reach.

A 12-volt plug-in port is also handy, and is easier to find, and there's another in the rear seating area, but there are no phone plug-ins there.

None of the preceding, however, will be germane to a certain kind of reader interested in electric vehicles. That reader will have only two questions: How much does it cost, and how far does it go?

For now, the Clarity is available only in California and Oregon. ("We're going to fish where the fish are," Honda Vice President Steve Center told me. "Those markets have really embraced EVs.") The Clarity can be had for $269 a month, on a three-year lease, with $1,999 due at signing.

Most customers will qualify for a $2,500 California rebate, which will take care of most of that down payment and a couple of months of the lease.

The Clarity's range numbers are less appealing. The car can go 89 miles, Honda said, between charges.

That number might be optimistic. Perhaps, in Eco mode, with the air conditioner off, driving cautiously, on flat streets, someone could get 89 miles out of a single battery charge.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Honda Clarity Electric

- **Times' take:** Sleek, silent, sophisticated EV sedan
- **Highs:** Affordable, spacious, stylish, fun to drive
- **Lows:** But ... 89-mile range?
- **Vehicle type:** 4-door, 5-passenger sedan
- **Base price:** $269/month, 3-year lease, $1,999 down
- **Price as tested:** As above
- **Powertrain:** 25.5 kWh battery, 120 kW electric motor
- **Transmission:** Electric, direct drive
- **Horsepower:** 161
- **Torque:** 221 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy rating:** 126 mpg equivalent city/103 highway/114 combined

Motormouth: What is the difference between coupe and sedan?

By BOB WEBER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Q The difference between a coupe and a sedan was explained to me many years ago by an old body and fender guy. When you open the door, there is no window frame. All sedans have window frames, and are generally more solid cars because of this support and the door post. You can have two-door sedans, but not four-door coupes. Also, the rear windows on the coupe, when rolled down with the front windows down, create a complete front-to-back opening. No center post. Hope this helps.

— J.S., Chicago

A It has been a long time since collision repair specialists were called body and fender men. It has also been a long time since coupe and sedan were so clearly delineated. Carmakers play it fast and loose with body style terms nowadays. According to the CarMax website: "… (T)he coupe car term started to blur as manufacturers greatly diminished or completely removed the rear seat to create a sportier 2+2 body style. This term refers to cars that have a sleek, sloping roofline, two doors, and two functional seats up front, plus two tiny seats in back. More recently, auto manufacturers started to apply the coupe definition to the sporty variants of their sedan lineup. As a result, the coupe term has become more popular with manufacturers, who apply it more loosely. Automakers may also offer both a coupe and sedan using the same model line, like the Honda Civic. The ability to clearly define coupe vehicles has become challenging in recent years as a result." We recall when the B-pillar (the center post between the front and rear doors) disappeared on four-door cars that were called hardtop sedans. Ugh.

Q Just thought I would chime in on this auto stop feature showing up on so many cars. I don't get the need for this at all. The people I know that have this hate it. If they can disable it, then they do. Friend just got a new Buick two months ago and is already thinking of getting rid of it. I'm interested in a new LaCrosse, but it's on that too. I'll keep what I have for now. What is the real need for this?

— K.U., Schaumburg, Ill.

A The need? Improved fuel economy. Car manufactures are using every trick they can think of to extend their CAFE (corporate average fuel economy) numbers. Five years ago, the government set a target fleet average of 54.5 miles per gallon for model year 2015 (the adjusted mpg we see on stickers and trip meters is about 40 mpg). Other tricks include cylinder deactivation when only four of the eight cylinders are required, hybrid technology and more.

Q When I fill up my motorcycle, I usually get premium gas. If the person before me filled their tank with regular, and I buy only 3 gallons, how much premium gas am I getting if it all comes out of the same hose?

— M.K., Chicago

A There is roughly one quart of gasoline left in the dispenser's line, so look for gas stations that have separate nozzles for each fuel grade. Or, wait for a pump where someone has just filled with premium. But it is not as bad as you may think. Petroleum industry chemist Tom Wicks told us that one quart of regular grade at 87 octane mixed with premium at 93 octane would only take it down 0.75 to 1 octane number, so you might end up with roughly 92 octane in the tank.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or motormouth.trib@verizon.net

Life & Style

Man dies after rushing into Burning Man festival flames

By SALLY HO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Aug. 29, 2014, file photo, Burning Man participants walk through dust at the annual Burning Man event on the Black Rock Desert of Gerlach, Nev. AP

A man rushed past layers of security officers into a massive fire at the Burning Man festival's signature ceremony, suffering burns that left him dead just hours later.

Authorities are investigating the death of Aaron Joel Mitchell, 41, who broke through a two-layer security perimeter during the Man Burn event in which a giant, wooden effigy is set ablaze.

Nevada's Pershing County Sheriff Jerry Allen estimated that there was a crowd of about 50,000 people who were present when the festival's crew of firefighters pulled Mitchell out of the blaze. He was airlifted to the UC Davis hospital burn center in California, where he died Sunday morning. The sheriff said doctors confirmed Mitchell wasn't under the influence of alcohol, but a toxicology report is pending.

"We don't know if it was intentional on his part or if it was just kind of induced by drugs. We're not sure of that yet," Allen said.

Mitchell was a U.S. citizen who had a home in Oklahoma but apparently was living in Switzerland with his wife, the sheriff's office said.

Burning Man said in a statement that they had cancelled burns through noon Sunday but would go ahead with the 8 p.m. temple burn, another signature event that signals the end of the nine-day festival. More than 70,000 people are attending the art and music celebration in the Black Rock Desert, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Reno.

Organizers are also offering emotional support counseling on site, saying in a statement: "Now is a time for closeness, contact and community. Trauma needs processing. Promote calls, hugs, self-care, check-ins, and sleep."

The festival culminates with the burning of a towering 40-foot effigy made of wood, a symbol of rebirth, which usually happens the Saturday before the Labor Day holiday. It's followed by the burning of a temple on Sunday before the festivities wrap up Monday.

Attempts to rescue Mitchell were hampered because part of the structure was falling while they were trying to get Mitchell out of it, the sheriff's office said.

"Rescuers had to leave him to allow the structure to fall and provide for rescuer safety before they could go back into the flames to extract Aaron from the debris," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Investigators are having a hard time getting information as festival-goers leave the site for their homes, the law enforcement agency said.

Attendees have tried before to run into the flames while the man is burning and there have been reported injuries from people trying to get a piece of the spectacle as a token and going through the hot coals. Allen said it's a problem that the organizers have tried to contain by having their own rangers stage a human-chain to prevent people from getting to the fire. Allen said that this is the first time someone has gotten through like this and the only fatality that he's aware of in his 15 years with the county.

"People try to run into the fire as part of their spiritual portion of Burning Man," Allen said. "The significance of the man burning, it's just kind of a rebirth, they burn the man to the ground, a new chapter has started. It's part of their tenets of radical self-expression."

Known for eclectic artwork, offbeat theme camps, concerts and other entertainment, Burning Man began in San Francisco before moving to Nevada in 1990. Over the years as the event grew in popularity, deaths and crime have been reported, ranging from car crashes to drug use.

In 2014, a man in Utah died by jumping into a huge ceremonial bonfire in an event that was similar to Burning Man. It was investigated as a suicide.

Helen Mirren hits the road in 'The Leisure Seeker' in Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The Italian nights are getting cooler as fall approaches, and there's something autumnal about many of the movies at the Venice Film Festival this year.

The passage of time and the approach of death are on the minds of many filmmakers—including Italy's Paolo Virzi, whose drama "The Leisure Seeker" premiered at the festival on Sunday.

Mirren

It stars Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland as a couple facing up to the end of their lives and embarking on one last trip across the U.S. in their battered old mobile home.

The 11-day Venice festival, which runs to Saturday, has already included Jane Fonda and Robert Redford trying to avoid a lonely old age in "Our Souls at Night." Still to come is Michael Caine reflecting on his 1960s heyday in the documentary "My Generation."

The title of "The Leisure Seeker" refers to a 1970s Winnebago used on family holidays by John and Ella Spencer (Sutherland and Mirren). John, a former English teacher, has dementia. Ella is completely lucid but getting physically frailer by the day.

The couple hit the road one last time, setting out on a pilgrimage of sorts to Ernest Hemingway's Key West house. Like a pair of elderly Huckleberry Finns, they light out for freedom, in what Virzi called "a rebellion against a destiny of hospitalization."

Mirren said she welcomed the chance the movie offered to look at questions of life and death.

The 72-year-old said the film was "a reflection of the way I hope to live my life."

"I loved the character of Ella because she is facing the end of her life, but she is facing the end of her life full of energy and commitment to life and pleasure in life that I hope that I can maintain to the end of my days," Mirren told reporters on Sunday.

This is the first U.S.-set film by acclaimed Italian director Virzi ("Like Crazy," ''Human Capital"). Virzi said he was reluctant to make it, wary of what can go wrong when filmmakers venture outside of their cultural comfort zones.

He told himself he'd make the movie only if he could get Sutherland and Mirren—and to his shock, they both agreed.

"At this point I said to myself, I can't avoid doing it," he said.

Both Sutherland and Mirren are aficionados of Italian cinema and Italian directors. He has starred in Italian films including Federico Fellini's "Casanova," while she made "Caligula" for Tinto Brass.

Mirren said she thought Virzi brought a perceptive outsider's eye to an American story.

"An Italian in America looking at the American culture, American way of life, American landscape—they have an eye which is fresh and individual and uninfluenced by politics or culture of history of family or anything," she said. "And I think that's a very powerful eye.

Mirren said Virzi's view of America was "generous. Not critical in a crass way, because Paolo's eye is ultimately a loving eye."

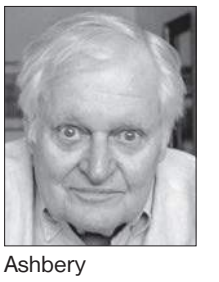
Donald Trump has sometimes felt like a presiding spirit at this year's Venice festival, because so many of the films deal with social divisions that have been heightened during his campaign and presidency. A notable example was George Clooney's satirical thriller about racial conflict, "Suburbicon," which premiered Saturday.

"The Leisure Seeker" was shot in the U.S. in 2016 and features a Trump rally that the crew came across while filming.

It was incorporated into the movie—although, said 82-year-old Sutherland, "we never for a moment dreamt (Trump) was going to be the current president of the United States."

John Ashbery, celebrated and challenging poet, dies at 90

NEW YORK (AP)—John Ashbery, an enigmatic genius of modern poetry whose energy, daring and boundless command of language raised American verse to brilliant and baffling heights, died early Sunday at age 90.



Ashbery

Ashbery, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and often mentioned as a Nobel candidate, died at his home in Hudson, New York. His husband, David Kermani, said his death was from natural causes.

Few poets were so exalted in their lifetimes. Ashbery was the first living poet to have a volume published by the Library of America dedicated exclusively to his work. His 1975 collection, "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror," was the rare winner of the book world's unofficial triple crown: the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle prize. In 2011, he was given a National Humanities Medal and credited with changing "how we read poetry."

Among a generation that included Richard Wilbur, W.S. Merwin and Adrienne Rich, Ashbery stood out for his audacity and for his wordplay, for his modernist shifts between high oratory and everyday chatter, for his humor and wisdom and dazzling runs of allusions and sense impressions.

"No figure looms so large in American poetry over the past 50 years as John Ashbery," Langdon Hammer wrote in The New York Times in 2008. "Ashbery's phrases always feel newly minted; his poems emphasize verbal surprise and delight, not the ways that linguistic patterns restrict us. "

Taylor Swift releases new song '...Ready For It?'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Taylor Swift wants to know if we're "...Ready For It ?"

The pop star released the pulsating new song off of her upcoming album "reputation" on Sunday after previewing it during a college football game on ESPN Saturday night. The song quickly became a trending topic on Twitter.

Swift previously released the somewhat divisive single "Look What You Made Me Do" and a self-aware music video in anticipation of the new album.

"Reputation" will mark her sixth studio effort following the album "1989," which was released in 2014. It will be available on Nov. 10.

A slow Labor Day caps a down summer at the box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With no new wide releases, Hollywood basically took the Labor Day weekend off and put an end to what's expected to be the lowest earning summer movie going season since 2006—the last time the industry saw a sub-$4 billion summer.

Things weren't as apocalyptic as analysts suggested going into the weekend, which had the potential to be the worst since 1992, but that's hardly cause for celebration. While official numbers for the four-day weekend won't be available until Tuesday, studio estimates and projections expect that in total this Labor Day weekend will be the lowest earning since 1998.

"There's no sugar coating the fact that this was a very slow labor day weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for comScore. "This was a fitting end to a rough summer."

Some did make it out to the multiplexes over the holiday weekend, though. According to studio estimates on Sunday, the R-rated actioner "The Hitman's Bodyguard" topped the charts for a third weekend with $10.3 million. The Samuel L. Jackson and Ryan Reynolds pic has earned a total of $54.9 million from North American theaters.

In second place was the horror spinoff "Annabelle: Creation," from Warner Bros., which added $7.3 million, bumping its domestic total to $89 million.

The Weinstein Company took spots three and four, with the crime drama "Wind River" in third with $5.9 million, and the animated family film "Leap!" in fourth with $4.9 million.

1. **"The Hitman's Bodyguard,"** $10.3 million ($14.2 million international).
2. **"Annabelle: Creation,"** $7.3 million ($15.6 million international).
3. **"Wind River,"** $5.9 million ($850,000 international).
4. **"Leap!"** $4.9 million.
5. **"Logan Lucky,"** $4.4 million ($1.3 million international).
6. **"Dunkirk,"** $4.1 million ($36.5 million international).
7. **"Spider-Man: Homecoming,"** $3.7 million ($1.6 million international).
8. **"The Emoji Movie,"** $2.5 million ($6.8 million international).
9. **"Despicable Me 3,"** $2.4 million ($9.9 million international).
10. **"Girls Trip,"** $2.3 million ($1.9 million international)

Judi Dench rules the Venice waves in 'Victoria & Abdul'

VENICE, Italy (AP)—It was a day of queens at the Venice Film Festival on Sunday—a real British monarch on the screen and two queens of acting, Judi Dench and Helen Mirren, on the red carpet.

Dench plays long-reigning Queen Victoria in Stephen Frears' "Victoria & Abdul," which charts the relationship between the monarch and Abdul Karim, an Indian man who became her servant and teacher.

Ahead of the film's gala premiere, Dench said she owes her movie career to Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901.

The 82-year-old actress told reporters "I had no film career really to speak of" before playing the monarch in the 1997 drama "Mrs. Brown," which gained Dench the first of her seven Academy Awards nominations.

She said revisiting the role and working again with Frears—who directed her to an Oscar nomination in "Philomena"—was "an irresistible proposition."

If Dench needs any advice on playing royalty, she could turn to Helen Mirren, in Venice Sunday with Paolo Virzi's road-trip movie "The Leisure Seeker." Mirren has played Britain's current monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, in movie "The Queen" and play "The Audience."

"It's good to be queen," Mirren said at a news conference for her film. "You always get very nice costumes when you're the queen, and you usually get quite a lot of lines. Or if you don't get a lot of lines you have very few lines but everybody looks at you."

Dench's two films about Victoria both center on close relationships the widowed monarch struck with men who were her servants.

In "Mrs. Brown" it was Scottish outdoorsman John Brown; in "Victoria & Abdul" it's Karim (played by Indian actor Ali Fazal), a young man brought to Britain to present the monarch with a gift for her Golden Jubilee in 1887.

The film depicts the queen's growing fascination with India, then part of the vast British empire. Victoria filled one of her homes with Indian artworks and under Karim's tutelage even learned Urdu.

The film—based largely on real events—depicts a royal court and British government horrified at the monarch's growing relationship with an Indian Muslim.

It's a story that feels strongly relevant to modern times, despite its 19th-century setting.

Frears joked that he asked himself before making it: "What film would Donald Trump most like to see?"

Eddie Izzard, who plays Victoria's eldest son, the future King Edward VII, said "Victoria & Abdul" is "an edgy story because of what we did to the Indian nation back then," when Britain was India's colonial master.

"This story has been suppressed for 100 years, so it's good to get it out," Izzard said.

The film marks a return to royal subject matter for Frears, who had one of his biggest successes in 2006 with "The Queen."

Frears also has a gritty side to his repertoire, exemplified by films like "My Beautiful Laundrette," ''The Grifters" and "Dirty Pretty Things."

Izzard said the new film had more in common than might first appear with "My Beautiful Laundrette," the story of a relationship between a Pakistani-British man and a white former skinhead in Thatcher-era London. It's a landmark of 80s British cinema, and gave Daniel Day-Lewis one of his first big screen roles.

Izzard said the new movie "is essentially 'My Beautiful Laundrette' done with kings and queens."

Added Frears: "Except that we no longer have Daniel Day-Lewis—we have Judi Dench."

AP

Actors Judi Dench, left, and Ali Fazal pose during a photo call for the film "Victoria And Abdul" at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017.

Young woman falls for new man during boyfriend's deployment

DEAR ABBY: I met my boyfriend, "Matt," when I was a sophomore in high school. We started dating when I was a senior. By then, he was already active-duty military. We weren't serious at the time (his decision, not mine). We've always had a long-distance relationship.

During his first deployment, Matt broke up with me. He told me he didn't want to see me again when he came home, although I begged him to change his mind. When he came home last year, he felt differently, and we've been together since then. Abby, he once told me after he'd been drinking that "he didn't think we were soul mates" and that "it wouldn't be him sitting next to me when we're 80." He is, however, very reliable and caring. My family loves him and he has a solid life plan.

Matt is now on his second deployment, and we don't get to talk more than about once a month. I recently met another guy at college, and I have fallen completely in love with him. We get along easily and he makes me laugh. I have never felt this way about any other guy before, but I also haven't known him very long.

I worked hard to be with Matt, and we have been through a lot together. I won't see him in person for at least six more months. I don't know what to do. Advice?

CONFLICTED IN THE EAST

DEAR CONFLICTED: Punt! Real life is more than a bundle of laughs. Do not break up with Matt and do not commit to this new man until Matt is again stateside and sober. Only then will you be in a position to make an informed decision about a future with either one of them.

DEAR ABBY: I had a rough time during my teenage and young adult years. One of the ways I dealt with it was by cutting myself. It became more severe over the years, and both my arms are covered with very noticeable scars.

Life is much better now, and my wife and I are expecting our first child. I have been trying to decide how I'm going to explain the scars to my child when he or she is older. I realize this will likely be a series of age-appropriate conversations. I don't want my child to follow in my footsteps, and I'm afraid to rationalize my behavior. How do I explain them?

BETTER NOW IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR BETTER NOW: I agree that you should answer your child's questions in an age-appropriate way if you are asked. When your child is little, he or she may be satisfied if you simply say, "Daddy hurt himself." When he or she is older, add more detail as necessary. Because a tendency toward depression can run in some families, it's important to make a special effort to keep the lines of communication open when it comes to "feelings." If you are unsure how to handle this, consult your child's pediatrician for guidance.

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DEAR ABBY

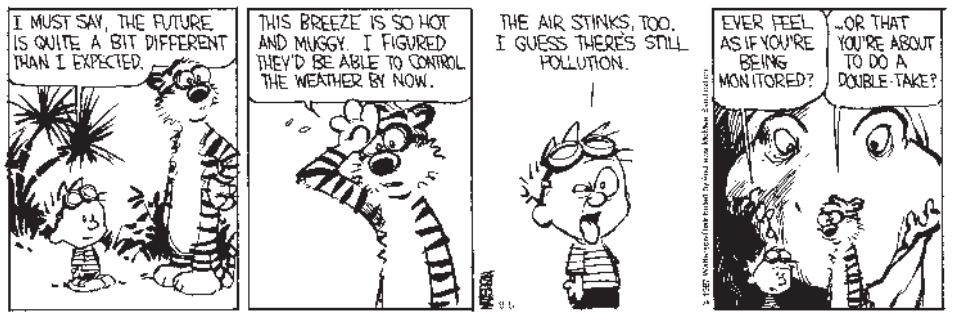
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I MUST SAY, THE FUTURE IS QUITE A BIT DIFFERENT THAN I EXPECTED.
THIS BREEZE IS SO HOT AND MUGGY. I FIGURED THEY'D BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE WEATHER BY NOW.
THE AIR STINKS, TOO. I GUESS THERE'S STILL POLLUTION.
EVER FEEL AS IF YOU'RE BEING MONITORED?
...OR THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO A DOUBLE-TAKE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

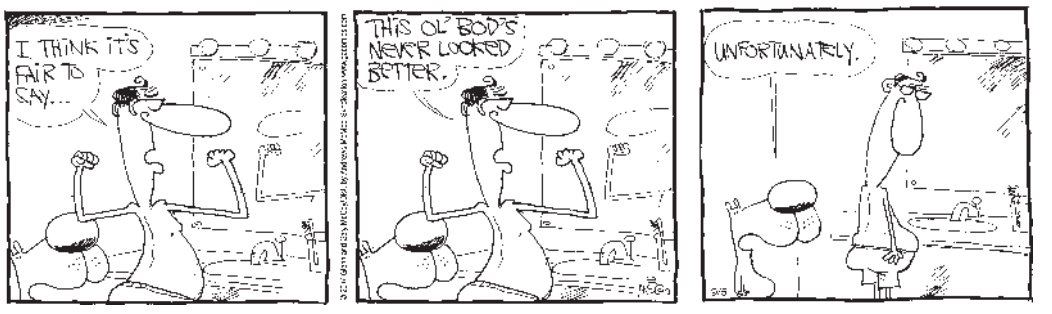
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BRAIN-STORMING.
I'M COMING UP WITH BOOK IDEAS. I WRITE DOWN ANYTHING THAT POPS INTO MY HEAD. THEN I RIFF ON IT.
LOOKS MORE LIKE A BRAIN DRIZZLE.
I KNOW. BUT THERE'S A 30% CHANCE OF LATE-AFTERNOON BRILLIANCE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Slightly wet
5 Pigs' digs
8 Aspic need
12 Exotic berry
13 Water tester
14 Buffalo's lake
15 Vendor
17 Caboose
18 Hosp. areas
19 Japanese sash
20 Future oak
21 "— Miniver"
22 Wilde-beest
23 Skiers' mecca
26 Frat party castoff
30 Mast
31 Cauldron
32 "Othello" villain
33 Short-handled axe
35 Beauty parlor
36 Listener
37 Chum
38 Meager
41 Armed conflict
42 A billion years
45 Spanish greeting
46 Lemon pie topping
48 Baltic Sea feeder
49 Flight stat
50 Teeny bit
51 Like candles
52 Layer
53 "Hey!"

DOWN

1 Title for Judi Dench
2 Computer brand
3 Red Planet
4 Photo, for short
5 Attempts
6 Writer Morrison
7 Even so
8 Fickle
9 Sandwich cookie
10 Tale teller
11 "Wild" actress Laura
16 Honker
20 Hydro-carbon suffix
21 Soldier of fortune
22 Retrieve
23 Fireplace residue
24 Resort
25 Bit of butter
26 Automa-ton, for short
27 Nev. neighbor
28 In the past
29 Dijon denial
31 For each
34 Chapeau
35 Ganges wrap
37 Bash
38 Broad-way offering
39 Musical finale
40 Trebek of "Jeop-ardy!"
41 Healthy
42 Swelled heads
43 Inning enders
44 Spruced up
46 Atlas page
47 Pinch

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	I	P			L	A	M		B	U	Z	Z
C	O	I	F		A	H	A		A	S	I	A
T	A	C	O		W	A	S		C	A	P	P
S	M	A	R	T		B	O	N	K			
			W	O	K		N	O	T	B	A	D
O	R	G	A	N	I	C		S	O	A	V	E
D	E	E	R		M	O	B		S	N	O	W
I	P	A	D	S		T	U	S	C	A	N	Y
N	O	R	M	A	L		B	A	H			
			A	W	A	Y		P	O	A	C	H
H	A	I	R		B	U	T		O	D	A	Y
A	C	D	C		C	L	E		L	A	P	P
M	E	S	H		R	E	X		M	O	O	

Yesterday's answer 9-5

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18			■	19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48					49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rose McGowan, 44; Dweezil Zappa, 48; Michael Keaton, 66; Raquel Welch, 77.

Happy Birthday: Step outside your usual social circle and view situations from a distance. Having the right perspective will help you realize your long-term dreams. The struggles of the past are lifting and the time to plunge into your ultimate goal is just around the corner. Keep an objective view of how you want to move forward as the year comes to a close. Your numbers are 1, 12, 22, 28, 35, 38, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Double-check every piece of information you acquire. Confusion is likely to set in due to misinformation or making assumptions. Slow down and look at every aspect of each situation you face. Personal gains and self-improvement are featured. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Combine a little charm with team spirit and you will be able to get the help you need to reach your goals. Be honest regarding your motives or someone is likely to leak your true agenda, making you look bad. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Handle requests with caution. Someone may try to trick you into taking on more responsibility than you are ready to handle. Don't let emotional manipulation cause you to make poor choices. Focus on personal growth. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't feel obligated to follow the crowd. Use your imagination and you'll discover a host of new ways to improve your home environment and your relationships with someone you deal with each day. Don't limit what you can accomplish. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can be passionate about doing something, but if you let your emotions take over and your imagination run wild, you are apt to make a mistake you'll later regret. Live within your means. Make every penny count. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Remain calm and stay focused. Don't expect others to do things your way. Dig in and do what needs to be done to keep moving forward. Stay in step and be accountable for what transpires. A change will do you good. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Social events, children's activities and volunteering your time to help others will bring high rewards. Personal gains will be yours if you adjust your lifestyle to ensure you get optimum return on your dollar. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Trust your instincts and use your imagination. Make unique adjustments to the way you live or how you do your job. Put your physical attributes to good use. What you do will make a difference to the way things turn out. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Truth, honesty and fair play will be necessary if you want to solve any pending problems you have with a friend, relative or peer. Listen, take notes and document what has happened. Implement positive change and keep moving forward. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for unique solutions to any contractual negotiations or settlements you are facing. The effort you put in will help you block someone trying to take advantage of you. Avoid being impulsive. Time is on your side. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't believe everything you hear. Divulging a secret will be counterproductive. Bide your time and let things unfold naturally. A back-up plan should be in place for when the time is right to make your move. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't fool yourself into believing something that isn't true. Let the chips fall where they may and do your best to acknowledge your contributions to any problem that may surface. It takes two to tango, so don't put the blame on someone else. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are progressive, intense and intuitive. You are intelligent and thoughtful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		1	3		5			6
		3		6				
			1				9	4
5						1		7
	9						4	
4		7						3
3	6				1			
				2		5		
7			5		4	8		1

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	1	3	9	5	7	8	6
9	7	3	4	6	8	2	1	5
6	5	8	1	7	2	3	9	4
5	3	6	8	4	9	1	2	7
1	9	2	7	5	3	6	4	8
4	8	7	2	1	6	9	5	3
3	6	5	9	8	1	4	7	2
8	1	4	6	2	7	5	3	9
7	2	9	5	3	4	8	6	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FIDGET SPINNERS Solution: 8 letters

G	T	T	B	K	I	D	S	E	C	A	L	M	A	O
N	N	R	S	N	A	P	R	E	S	A	L	R	N	I
I	E	I	S	L	O	O	H	C	S	S	S	E	T	D
T	M	C	V	K	G	A	N	E	K	P	P	E	L	A
E	T	K	E	E	N	F	E	C	E	I	E	O	B	P
G	R	S	C	D	I	R	O	T	E	N	H	F	R	D
D	O	T	S	I	H	L	A	C	A	G	C	O	A	R
I	S	H	O	T	T	T	E	G	U	N	N	R	S	A
F	S	G	F	S	O	S	E	R	O	S	I	W	S	O
R	A	I	T	R	O	R	A	L	S	D	P	A	R	B
C	O	L	O	R	S	K	Y	L	G	S	F	R	A	E
P	B	U	T	T	O	N	S	E	P	L	E	D	E	T
L	F	I	N	G	E	R	S	E	I	P	I	R	G	A
A	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	D	E	M	I	T	K
Y	R	O	S	N	E	S	K	E	C	A	F	R	U	S

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Assortment, Brass, Buttons, Calm, Case, Children, Colors, Desk, Fidgeting, Fingers, Flick, Focus, Forward, Gears, Grip, Hands, Hold, Kids, Laser, Lights, Lock, Nylon, One Piece, Pad, Pinch, Plastic, Play, Relieving, Ridges, Rotate, Round, Schools, Sensory, Skateboard, Snap, Soft, Soothing, Spin, Spokes, Stress, Surface, Teenagers, Three, Time, Tricks

Yesterday's Answer: Tuscany

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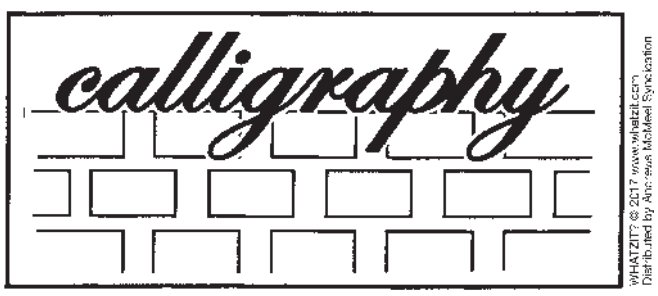

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Yankees wear out Sale to rout Red Sox

AP

New York Yankees second baseman Ronald Torreyes tags out Boston Red Sox runner Rafael Devers (11) who is attempting to steal second base during the fifth inning of a baseball game Sunday, Sept.3, 2017, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—After beating Chris Sale for the third time this season, the New York Yankees are within shouting distance of first place with four weeks to go.

Matt Holliday and Todd Frazier hit back-to-back home runs as the Yankees wore out Sale early and routed the Boston Red Sox 9-2 on Sunday night, taking three of four games in their final series this season to make up ground on the AL East leaders.

"I don't think we proved anything," Holliday said. "They're still in first place and we're trying to catch `em."

Chase Headley also went deep against Sale, and slumping Aaron Judge capped a six-run sixth with a two-run homer that snapped his longest drought of the season. Starlin Castro laced a three-run double and Luis Severino (12-6) struck out nine in six innings of two-hit ball to win a marquee matchup on the mound.

The second-place Yankees won the season series 11-8 and sliced Boston's cushion in the division to 3 1/2 games with 26 to play.

"We've got plenty of time left. Now's definitely not the time to panic," said Sale, who is 1/3 with a 6.88 ERA in his last four starts. "We know where we're at. We know what we need to do."

Sale (15-7) has been one of baseball's best pitchers all year, but he came up empty against the Yankees during his first season in Boston.

The ace left-hander was chased in the fifth and dropped to 0-3 in five starts vs. New York this year, though he entered with a 2.12 ERA and 44 strikeouts in 29 2/3 innings against them.

"Makes us feel good," Castro said. "That means we've got a good team. We've got all nine guys who go out there and fight."

This time, the Yankees were especially gritty in the batter's box. They hit 29 foul balls off Sale, who threw 109 pitches in 4 1/3 innings.

Headley connected on a 0-2 slider leading off the third, his third home run in 28 career at-bats against Sale. It was Headley's second homer in two days.

Indians 11, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Jose Ramirez tied a major league record with five extra-base hits, including a pair of home runs that deflected off Detroit outfielders, and the Cleveland Indians routed the Tigers for their 11th straight victory.

Ramirez had three doubles in becoming the 13th player with five extra-base hits in a game. Kris Bryant of the Cubs did it last year, and the previous Cleveland player to accomplish the feat was Kelly Shoppach in 2008.

The AL Central-leading Indians have their longest winning streak since a team-record 14-game run last year.

Astros 8, Mets 6

In Houston, Cameron Maybin hit a three-run homer, George Springer connected for the second straight day and the Astros swept their weekend series with the Mets.

Josh Reddick added two hits and three RBI for the Astros, who won both games of a doubleheader on Saturday in their first home games since flooding from Hurricane Harvey devastated the city. Carlos Correa hit an RBI single in his return from the disabled list.

Will Harris (3-2) pitches a scoreless sixth for the win and Chris Devenski allowed one hit in two scoreless innings for his fourth save.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 1

In Denver, Ketel Marte and Brandon Drury homered in Arizona's three-run sixth, and the Diamondbacks extended their winning streak to 10 games.

It's the Diamondbacks' longest winning streak since they captured a franchise-best 12 straight in 2003. Zack Godley (7-7) pitched six effective innings to help Arizona sweep a three-game series from Colorado.

The Diamondbacks increased their lead over Colorado for the top NL wild card to 6 1/2 games.

Braves 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Max Fried combined with four relievers on a five-hitter in his first major league start, and the Braves ended the Cubs' six-game winning streak.

Recalled from Triple-A on Friday, Fried (1-0) gave up a run and four hits in five innings.

The NL Central-leading Cubs had matched their longest winning string of the season. Rookie Ian Happ hit his 21st homer, but Chicago couldn't get much going coming off a 14-12 victory.

Brewers 7, Nationals 2

In Milwaukee, Domingo Santana homered twice, and Milwaukee pulled within a half-game of Colorado for the NL's second wild card.

Brent Suter, who had not pitched for Milwaukee since Aug. 12 because of left rotator cuff inflammation, allowed two hits in three scoreless innings and left after 43 pitches.

Jeremy Jeffress (2-0), Jacob Barnes and Anthony Swarzak combined for five hitless innings. Junior Guerra completed the three-hitter but gave up a two-run homer to Ryan Zimmerman in the ninth.

Rangers 7, Angels 6

In Arlington, Elvis Andrus hit two of Texas' four homers and the Rangers took the rubber game of a series with wild-card implications for both teams.

The Rangers (68-68) went ahead to stay when Robinson Chirinos and Delino DeShields hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning. No. 9 hitter Chirinos' two-run homer tied it at 4 before DeShields went deep.

Andrew Heaney (1-1) was charged with five runs in 3 1/3 innings.

Orioles 5, Blue Jays 4, 12 innings

In Baltimore, Welington Castillo homered twice for Baltimore, including a game-tying shot in the ninth inning, and Mark Trumbo won it in the 12th with an RBI single.

The Orioles never led until Trumbo drove in Jonathan Schoop with a liner into the left-field corner off Danny Barnes (2-6). Prior to Trumbo's hit, Baltimore was 0 for 16 with runners in scoring position.

Toronto led 4-3 in the ninth before Castillo connected off Roberto Osuna, who was vying for his 36th save. Osuna avoided further damage by retiring Adam Jones with two one and two out.

Padres 6, Dodgers 4

In San Diego, Erick Aybar hit a two-run homer and Jose Pirela also went deep to help the Padres hand the major league-leading Dodgers their eighth loss in nine games.

San Diego won three straight against Los Angeles for the first time since June 2013.

Cody Bellinger hit his 36th homer to break Mike Piazza's Dodgers rookie record, set in 1993. It came with one out in the ninth off All-Star closer Brad Hand, who got his 15th save.

Phillies 3, Marlins 1, 12 innings

In Miami, Nick Williams hit a two-run single with two out in the 12th inning, and five Phillies pitchers held the Marlins to four hits.

Miami's Giancarlo Stanton went 0 for 3 with two walks to finish the week 2 for 25 (.080). Both hits were homers, giving him 52 for the season.

Phillies rookie slugger Rhys Hoskins was held out of the starting lineup after being hit on the right wrist by a pitch Saturday.

White Sox 6, Rays 2

In Chicago, White sox rookie Lucas Giolito struck out 10 in seven sharp innings, and Jose Abreu homered in his return to the lineup.

A key piece of Chicago's rebuilding project, the 23-year-old Giolito (2-1) allowed a run and three hits in his third start since being called up from the minor leagues last month.

Tim Anderson added three hits, including his 15th homer, and drove in three runs as the lowly White Sox hurt the Rays' wild-card chances by taking two of three in the weekend series.

Royals 5, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Kansas City's Lorenzo Cain hit a go-ahead, two-run triple in the seventh inning after a checked-swing call went his way on a close two-strike pitch.

The Royals trailed 4-3 and had two on with two outs when Cain fouled off his first four pitches from Alan Busenitz (1-1). Cain took a fastball up, and then checked his swing on an outside curveball in the dirt.

Cardinals 7, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Harrison Bader hit a tiebreaking homer in the decisive sixth inning after Madison Bumgarner homered in the bottom of the fifth, and the Cardinals gained ground in the wild-card race.

Paul DeJong hit a solo homer in the fourth for the first St. Louis hit and Jose Martinez followed with a drive to nearly the same spot over the left-field fence.

Luke Weaver (4-1) struck out nine over seven innings to just miss a third straight start with double-digit Ks, helping St. Louis move within three games of Colorado for the NL's second wild card.

Pirates 3, Reds 1

In Pittsburgh, Trevor Williams pitched seven scoreless innings and Jordy Mercer hit his career-best 13th homer, leading Pittsburgh to the win.

Williams (6-7) scattered eight hits, struck out five and walked one in his first win since Aug. 7. The right-hander has allowed just two earned runs over 20 innings in his last three outings.

Felipe Rivero worked a rocky ninth for his 17th save. Scooter Gennett scored on second baseman Max Moroff's error, but Jose Peraza bounced into a game-ending forceout at home.

Mariners 10, Athletics 2

In Seattle, Robinson Cano homered and drove in four runs, Andrew Albers took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, and the Mariners completed a three-game series sweep.

Albers, acquired from Atlanta on Aug. 11, did not allow a hit until Matt Olson opened the sixth with his 12th homer. That was the only hit off Albers (3-1) who struck out five in six innings.

Carlos Ruiz and Mitch Haniger homered for the Mariners, who moved within 2 1/2 games of Minnesota for the second wild card.

Sharapova ousted; Venus moves to quarterfinals

NEW YORK (AP)—Maybe this was just one three-setter too many for Maria Sharapova.

Sharapova tried a bit of everything, even resorting to switching over her racket to hit a few lefty shots. Still, the five-time major champion could not quite keep her Grand Slam comeback from a doping suspension going, losing in the fourth round of the U.S. Open to 16th-seeded Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday.

"Look, three-set matches are challenging . I love being part of them. There's an element of concentration, focus, physicality that goes into all of it. And you have to put it all together. Yeah, you just have to get through it," Sharapova said. "There's no doubt that not playing those matches certainly cost me today. I did feel like I was thinking a little bit too much and not playing by instinct."

This was the third time in her four matches that Sharapova went the distance and she faded down the stretch, while also dealing with a blister on her right hand that was treated and taped by a trainer in the final set. Sharapova's miscues kept closing exchanges, and she dropped 13 of the first 14 points in that set.

The 30-year-old Russian finished with 51 unforced errors, compared to 14 for Sevastova.

"It's been a really great ride," Sharapova said.

"Ultimately, I can take a lot from this week," she continued. "It's great to get that major out of the way. It was an incredible opportunity. I'm very thankful for the opportunity."

Sharapova's exit leaves Venus Williams as the only past U.S. Open champion in the women's field . The 37-year-old Williams, who won the title in 2000 and 2001, got to the quarterfinals by beating Carla Suarez Navarro 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Next for Williams will be a showdown against No. 3 Garbine Muguruza or No. 13 Petra Kvitova, who were scheduled to face each other Sunday night. Muguruza beat Williams in the Wimbledon final in July; Kvitova owns two trophies from the All England Club.

Sharapova hadn't played in a major tournament since the Australian Open in January 2016, when she tested positive for the newly banned drug meldonium. She served a 15-month ban for that, returning to the tour this April with a ranking too low to get into Grand Slam events.

The French Open denied her a wild-card invitation, then she planned to try to qualify for Wimbledon before pulling out because of an injured left leg.

But she was able to enter the U.S. Open thanks to a wild card from the U.S. Tennis Association, which then proceeded to put its 2006 champion in Arthur Ashe Stadium every time she played over the past week, drawing strong support from spectators—and criticism from another former No. 1-ranked woman, Caroline Wozniacki.

AP

Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot from Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017, in New York.

On Day 1 of the tournament, Sharapova won a three-set thriller under the lights against No. 2 seed Simona Halep.

"Just competing, you know, being in that competitive environment— that's what I missed," Sharapova said. "You can't replicate that anywhere, especially at a Grand Slam. So … Monday night was a special night for me. I will always remember it."

This time, Sevastova made Sharapova run a lot by pulling her forward with drop shots or tight angles, then would often deposit follow-up strokes into open spaces. On one point won by Sharapova in the second set, she twice tracked down lobs that she got back over the net by hitting the ball left-handed.

But she could not sustain enough strong play, and Sevastova reached the U.S. Open quarterfinals for the second consecutive year.

"I allowed the match to become physical," Sharapova said about the late-going. "I don't think I played as aggressive or was stepping in as much as I did in the first set."

Sevastova will face unseeded American Sloane Stephens, who reached her first quarterfinal in New York by eliminating No. 30 Julia Goerges 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Stephens has won 12 of her past 14 matches, a remarkable run for someone who was off the tour for 11 months because of foot surgery in January.

Earlier Sunday, 18-year-old Canadian Denis Shapovalov's entertaining stay ended with a 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) loss to 12th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain. In the quarters, Carreno Busta will play No. 29 Diego Schwartzman of Argentina.

Shapovalov was trying to become the youngest male quarterfinalist at Flushing Meadows since Andre Agassi in 1988, but he wasted a 5-2 lead and three set points in the opener, and finished with 55 unforced errors.

"Honestly, it was so much fun to be part of that atmosphere and the match and this whole two weeks," Shapovalov said. "You know, it's another life-changing event for me.

Cavaliers shopping 2018 1st-rounder from Irving trade

CLEVELAND—After some delay, the blockbuster trade is finally complete, but that doesn't mean the Cleveland Cavaliers are done dealing.

The club shipped disgruntled point guard Kyrie Irving to the Boston Celtics in exchange for Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder, Ante Zizic, and the Brooklyn Nets' 2018 first-round pick, plus an extra 2020 second-round pick after expressing concerns over Thomas' hip injury.

But rather than relishing in all their newfound assets, the Cavaliers have already fielded several calls about a potential swap involving the Nets pick, according to cleveland.com's Joe Vardon.

Cleveland may part with the pick—which could materialize into a high lottery selection next June—before February's trade deadline for a package that can make the club immediately better in its bid to make its fourth straight trip to the NBA Finals.

Alternatively, new general manager Koby Altman could wait for the season to play out to see whether the 32-year-old superstar LeBron James stays or takes his talents elsewhere. James can opt out of his contract following 2017-18, and if he departs, that would almost certainly trigger a rebuild in his hometown.

The last time that happened, the Cavaliers selected Irving first overall and were expected to build around the dynamic scorer and playmaker. That plan was scrapped when James returned in 2014 after leading the Miami Heat to two titles, retaking the reins in Ohio. He and Irving went on to bring Cleveland its first-ever NBA championship in 2016, and now it's entirely possible neither of them will be around two years later.

In the event that James decides to move on, the Cavaliers have collected pieces that will help them start over, including their own 2018 first-round pick, trade exceptions, and second-rounders.

The team appears ready to go whichever way James dictates.

US will need road results to reach 8th straight World Cup

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (AP)—Michael Bradley realizes the huge distinction between home games and road matches in international soccer.

"In some cases it couldn't be more different," the U.S. captain said last week at Red Bull Arena in New Jersey. "You look around here: a beautiful stadium, a field that's in great condition."

And then he thought ahead to the Americans' upcoming trip to Central America.

"Tuesday in Honduras will be the complete opposite," he predicted, "so your group has to have a mentality that understands that, embraces that and realizes that the way to get results on the road is different."

Teams usually reach the World Cup by winning home games and occasionally picking up points on the road. The U.S. had lost once in 50 home qualifiers (42 wins, seven ties) since 1985 before defeats to Mexico last November and to Costa Rica on Friday night.

During that same span, the Americans had 19 wins, 15 losses and 16 draws in away qualifiers.

A temperature in the low 90s is expected for the late-afternoon game, which kicks off at 3:36 p.m. (5:36 p.m. EDT). High humidity could make it feel like about 110, and rain is possible. The Americans won a night game here 3-2 eight years ago, then wasted a one-goal halftime lead in the afternoon in 2013, wilting during a 2-1 loss to the Catrachos.

Gaining at least a point at Estadio Olýmpico Metropolitano has become critical for the Americans, who are third in the North and Central America and the Caribbean with eight points, ahead of Honduras on goal difference. The top three teams qualify for next year's tournament in Russia, and the fourth-place nation goes to a playoff against Asia's No. 5 finisher.

Mexico (17 points) clinched Friday night and Costa Rica (14) is on the verge of assuring itself a World Cup trip. While Panama (seven points) could move into third with a home win over Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday, the U.S. hosts the Panamanians next month and could move back ahead.

Goalkeeper Tim Howard said Friday's 2-0 lost to Costa Rica doesn't change the U.S. approach to Honduras.

"I think we would have anticipated us going down there and getting a win," he said.

The U.S. probably will need wins or draws from all three of its remaining games to reach its eighth straight World Cup. The Americans host Panama on Oct. 6 at Orlando, Florida, and conclude the hexagonal four days later at Trinidad, which probably will have been eliminated by then.

After the U.S. opened the final round with losses to Mexico and Costa Rica, the U.S. Soccer Federation fired coach Jurgen Klinsmann and brought back Arena, the American coach from 1998-2006. Qualifying started to get back on track in March with a 6-0 rout of Honduras at San Jose, California. The U.S. figures to play a bit more defensively on the road.

Arena made three changes to his lineup for the March qualifier at Panama, when his players had three days' rest, and seven for the June match at Mexico City, when there were just two days between games and the U.S. had little time to adjust to altitude.

He will have to make at least one switch Tuesday: forward Jozy Altidore is suspended for yellow card accumulation.

3x3 Hoopfest Marianas kicks off today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eleven matches will be played in the opening day of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 this afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament will kick off with games in the boys U16 and women's open divisions. At Court A at 5pm, Boonkgang takes on Banger Bros in the boys U16 category, while in the women's field at Court B, it will be FAB-IV versus Blue Babes. Each match will be played for only 10 minutes with the first team to score 21 points or the squad that is ahead after the game to be declared the winner.

Also scheduled to play at Court A are Half Gang vs LeAir Ballers at 5:30pm and Big B's vs Ol'Aces 2 at 6pm in the boys U19; PIC vs CTSI at 6:30pm in the women's open; and Rollers 1 vs PIC 1 at 7pm open; and Trilogy vs Sidney's Team at 7:30pm in the men's open.

Over at Court B, the pair of boys U19 games will have Mix Breed battling Ballz-Deep at 5:30pm and Warriors dueling V-God at 6pm. Then in the men's open division, Leroy's Team challenges Rollers 2 at 6:30pm, and the Ol'Aces square off against PIC 2 at 7pm.

The final list of teams in each division has yet to be finalized, as Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is still accepting squads, but registration is only until tonight. Tournament format will also be determined once the participants lists are completed.

Today's games represent the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 and matches will run until this Saturday.

Winners in the men's and women's open divisions of the Saipan competition will have a chance to represent the CNMI to the 3x3 contest in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games that will be held in Vanuatu in December. Tinian and Rota will have their separate qualifying tournaments on Sept. 10 and Sept. 22-23, respectively. Qualifiers in the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota competitions will advance to the final stage of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 and will play in the Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 games at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Rollers player goes up for a layup during an earlier game in the Diaz youth caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Two Rollers team will play in the opening day of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017.

2 teams vie for top ranking in Tuesday League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Tonight's final schedule in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League will determine the playoff rankings as the Top 4 teams prepare for the next round of matches heading into the championship match.

Semifinal matches will have the top team taking on the fourth placer, while No. 2 battles No. 3 in the knockout matches, not what was earlier reported, saying that the squad with the most wins is the division champ. The winners of the semis matches will contend for the title.

The Tasha's Str8 Black Ball remains on top with a 145-102 card with the 9 Eleven Docomo Hustlers not far behind at 144-103. The third and fourth places also remain a toss up between the 9 Eleven Titans (133-114) and the Chow Time-Blue Haus Destroyers (132-115).

Str8 Black Ball will take on the Destroyers, while the Hustlers battle lowly Chow Time Assassins (89-158) in separate venues later in the day. The Titans will play against Tasha's Crazy 8 with the Top 4 teams aiming to clinch the much-needed wins to secure the final semis pairings.

The Hustlers moved closer to clinching the top spot after last week's 8-5 win over the league-leading Black Ball, while the Titans also had the same results when they took on the Destroyers. The Assassins edged the Crazy 8, 7-6, in the other match.

The Chow Time 8-Black Ball (153-94), 9 Eleven-sponsored teams MJD Warriors (150-97) and Titans II (141-106), and the Tasha's Wild Bills (132-115) are the semis contenders in the Thursday division.

Sands Team SCS (122-125), Chow Time-Blue Haus Homeboyz (103-144), 9 Eleven Jam Shooters (100-147), and Tasha's Extreme (87-160) are the other teams in the lower half of the Thursday League.

The Titans, in matches played last Aug. 31, won by walkover against the Homeboyz, 13-0, and the Warriors pummeled the cellar-dwelling Extreme, 12-1, while the Black Ball and Team SCS scored similar 7-6 triumphs over the Wild Bill's and Jam Shooters, respectively.

There are two play dates left in the Thursday League with the Extreme clashing with Team SCS; the Homeboyz meeting the Warriors; the Jam Shooters facing off with Wild Bills; and the Titans taking on the Black Ball on Sept. 7.

KONQER holds 3-day sign up

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Organizers of KONQER Saipan-King of the Hill will have a three-day registration at McDonald's Middle Road from 2:30pm to 4pm starting today up to Thursday. KONQER Saipan is set for Sept. 9 at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

Individual registration fees are $50 for 18 and up and $25 per registrant for students in the 15 to 17 years old age group. Youths who are under 14 are free to join the inaugural obstacle course challenge.

A press conference will also be held tomorrow at 11:30am at the Fiesta Resort & Spa-Saipan's executive lounge where KONQER organizers will explain the activities and also answer additional questions about the competition.

Participation packets can be picked up on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 2pm to 6pm at the Fiesta lobby. Official competition bib as well as other race items and course information are included in the packet. Participants are required to have their race bibs before the start of the event. Organizers must be informed beforehand if a proxy would pick up the packet through email support@konqersports.com.

Teams can send their representatives to pick up their race packet by presenting a photo ID for verification purposes.

The race packet pickup at Fiesta is also KONQER's final leg of "Happy Hour" countdown where Saipan Brewing's KONQER Saipan Ale will be available for a limited time.

NEW

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in the next 10 days," Minogue said.

NMASA meeting tomorrow

Sports federations that will send athletes to the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu are required to attend the Northern Marianas Sports Association monthly meeting this Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 7pm.

NMSA president Michael White will discuss with the concerned sports groups the travel subsidy for athletes and coaches going to the Games that will run from Dec. 4 to 15. White is asking golf, rugby, athletics, and basketball (3x3) associations to also turn it brief reports about their team selection and training for the Mini Games. The NMASA head is reminding, too, these federations to submit the requirements for accreditation on or before Sept. 30.

"For people who have previously been accredited for a Pacific Games, all I need is a name. For others, I need a copy of the business page of the passport and a scannable passport-size color photo on a white background, no hat," White said.

TORI

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ings, while Harasato ruled the tournament after earning an unbeaten record in the weekend's contest. Besides downing MP United, the eventual champion also topped FACT Soccer Club, 2-0; Vivid Blue, 3-1; and Susono Nishi, 4-1. FACT settled for the runner-up honors with its 3-1 record as it also defeated Susono Nishi, 3-0 and Vivid Blue, 6-1. Susoni Nishi (2-2) and Vivid Blue (1-3) finished third and fourth, respectively. Harasato won the biannual tournament for the first time to join MP United (Pacific Ocean Cup 2, 4, and 7), Nagaoka SSS (Pacific Ocean Cup 1), Vivid Blue (Pacific Ocean Cup 3), and Pure FC (Pacific Ocean Cup 6) in the champions circle. Meanwhile, four other players were named MVPs in the tournament. The list includes Vivid Blue's Taiki Miyashiro, Susono Nishi's Shoma Watanabe, FACT Soccer Club's Issa Komatsu, and Harasato's Rin Yoshioka.

RETARDO

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score of 79 and 6.0 handicap for the $200 runner-up purse. Poe went home with the $100 prize after shooting a 72 and his -1.20 handicap gave him a 73.2 net.

"I got an advantage with this type of format because once somebody hits that handicap hole, you're going to get a lower score. Luckily, on that day, I hit the handicap hole," added the Mariana Resort executive chef.

The peoria system is a one-day handicapping method usually used in charity tournaments or company outings.

Though only six signed up in the Championship Flight, it was still a tough field with perennial contender Harry Nakamura, youngster and two-time BMW Guam Junior Open champion Dong Young Lee, and CNMI Federation of Golf Associations president David Largent also on the list.

Meanwhile, the Top 3 winners in other divisions were Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho (67.4), Alex Tudela 69.6), and Tars Olopai (70.8) in the Seniors; Chang Hee Yoo (70.4), Gil An Yoon (70.6), and Shiori Onoue (72.2) in the Ladies; Luis Tilipao (71.2), Sung Soo Lim (71.2), and Chang Ho Kim (73) in the A Flight; Tony Guerrero (67.40), Patrick C. Guerrero (69.2), and Yasuhiro Sato (72.8) in the B Flight; and Dave Apatang (71.8), Tommy Kim (72.6), and Paul Manglona (73) in the C Flight.

One hundred forty-four golfers joined the tournament, which will use its proceeds for the programs of the Marianas Tourism Educational Council and MY WAVE Club. B Flight runner-up Patrick C. Guerrero also donated to MTEC his $200 prize check.

MTEC chair Vicky Benavente said the entire board is thankful to all the participants, sponsors, and volunteers of the tournament.

"The board is thankful for their involvement in our tourism business. Thank you also to those who stepped up to the plate for their contributions. We also thank all the 144 players and those on the waiting list that came out and had a good time even if they did not win but came home with raffle prizes," Benavente said.

"It is always a good feeling to have the community's support and the Marianas Visitors Authority as one of our partners. The money we collected would go a long way in funding our programs to teach our kids and get them involved in the tourism industry through the MY WAVE Club," she added.

In other results, Manny Mangarero had the longest drive at No. 18 with his 270 yards, while Manglona, Thomson Palik, and Marco Peter won in the closest to the pin contests.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	77	60	.562	—
New York	73	63	.537	3½
Baltimore	70	67	.511	7
Tampa Bay	68	70	.493	9½
Toronto	63	74	.460	14

Central Division

Cleveland	80	56	.588	—
Minnesota	71	65	.522	9
Kansas City	67	68	.496	12½
Detroit	58	78	.426	22
Chicago	54	81	.400	25½

West Division

Houston	83	53	.610	—
Los Angeles	70	67	.511	13½
Seattle	69	68	.504	14½
Texas	68	68	.500	15
Oakland	58	78	.426	25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	82	54	.603	—
Miami	67	69	.493	15
Atlanta	60	75	.444	21½
New York	58	78	.426	24
Philadelphia	52	84	.382	30

Central Division

Chicago	75	61	.551	—
Milwaukee	72	65	.526	3½
St. Louis	69	67	.507	6
Pittsburgh	65	72	.474	10½
Cincinnati	58	79	.423	17½

West Division

Los Angeles	92	44	.676	—
Arizona	79	58	.577	13½
Colorado	72	64	.529	20
San Diego	62	75	.453	30½
San Francisco	54	85	.388	39½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inaugural Triple J 5K Foam and Fun Run

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

A group of runners heads toward the bubble pit during last Saturday's Inaugural Annual Triple J 5K Foam and Fun Run.

Two participants raise their arms in excitement after passing the bubble pit.

The young at hearts also enjoy the bubbles and foams.

A small group of runners poses for a photo.

Triple J chair and chief executive officer Bob Jones, left, and Tan-Holdings president Jerry Tan share a light moment.

A group of runners poses for Saipan Tribune.

Three female participants are covered in bubbles.

Groups of friends bond during last Saturday's event.

Yankees wear out Sale to rout Red Sox

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sharapova ousted; Venus moves to quarterfinals

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Retardo leads Governor's Cup winners

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

JON PEREZ
William Retardo, left, is in a celebratory mood with third placer Daryl Poe after successfully defending his Championship Flight title in the 2nd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament held last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

William Retardo stood up to receive the second place winnings of good friend Freddie Cataluna in the Championship Flight of last Saturday's 2nd Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament held at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Event host Glenn Policare then asked Retardo to stay for the needed photo-op, but the former was a bit surprised that the latter approached him again to accept the $300 check—the prize for the champion in each flight. It turned out that Policare was just joking as he asked the eventual champion if he's sure that he's Retardo and not Cataluna, bringing the crowd to laughter. Retardo went on to win his second straight title in the fundraiser after ruling the same competition last year. Guam's Daryl Poe joined Retardo and Cataluna in the Top 3 of the Championship Flight of the tournament held on the Greg Norman-designed 6,330-yard, par-72 east course of the Kagman facility.

"I just got lucky again since the tournament format is double peoria. The same thing happened last year when I first got lucky in this tournament," said Retardo, who finished with a gross score of 76 and a handicap of 4.80 earned him a 71.20 net.

Cataluna was 1.80 behind Retardo with a 73 after a gross

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New host, same schedule for 2019 Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Though the 2019 Pacific Games has a new host in Samoa, the proposed dates and events as agreed when Tonga was initially awarded the hosting rights will stay.

Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue, in a press statement, said the quadrennial meet may still be held from July 8 to 20, while 26 sports will be contested in the Games. Fourteen sports are compulsory and these include athletics, boxing, basketball, golf, swimming, table tennis, tennis, va'a (outrigger canoe racing), volleyball (indoor and beach), judo, taekwondo, weightlifting, football and rugby sevens (for men only). Samoa, being the host, will choose the remaining eight, but bodybuilding, hockey, and surfing are already excluded, while badminton and squash maybe considered. 3x3 basketball is also on the list and is included in the basketball program.

As for the cost to participate in the 2019 Pacific Games, the host will charge $35 per diem for each delegate (athletes and officials). The amount was the same per diem offered by Tonga when it won the bid for the hosting rights of the competition in October 2012.

Meanwhile, the Pacific Games Council Executive Board is confident that Samoa will stage another successful Pacific Games in 2019.

"The sporting facilities are all in place and the full and financial support of the Samoan Prime Minister and their government gave the Samoan PGA's bid the winning edge. We all look forward to returning to Apia in 2019. In the meantime, PGC expects to sign the Games host agreement with the Samoan PGA and government

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Tori Weaver gets MVP award in Pacific Ocean Cup 8

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club's Tori Maratita Weaver was selected as one of the most valuable players in the Pacific Ocean Cup 8 held over the weekend at the Numazu Seibu ground in Shizuoka, Japan.

Weaver teamed up with brother Garett, Angelo Xu, Yi Sui, Carlo Diaz, Stephanie Kim, Evan Mendiola, Andrew Chung, and Ian Song in battling host Vivid Blue, Harasato, FACT Soccer Club, and Susono Nishi in 8x8 games that were played into two 15-minute halves (per match). Tori, who received a MVP medal at the awards ceremony, was among those who put MP United in the board during the round-robin tournament and the visiting club went on score four goals in the competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MP United Football Club's Tori Maratita Weaver, right, poses with her MVP medals and joins other top players for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the Pacific Ocean Cup 8 held over the weekend in Shizuoka, Japan.

Tori and company first played against Vivid Blue and the host edged out MP United, 4-2. In its second game, MP United was pitted against Harasato and the latter recorded a 4-1 victory. FACT Soccer Club was up next for the Alex Park and Gene Weaver-coached MP United and the former cruised to a 14-0 triumph. For its last match, MP United faced Susono Nishi and the Japanese team foiled the visiting squad's bid to enter the win column after posting a 7-1 victory.

MP United ended up at fifth place in the team stand-

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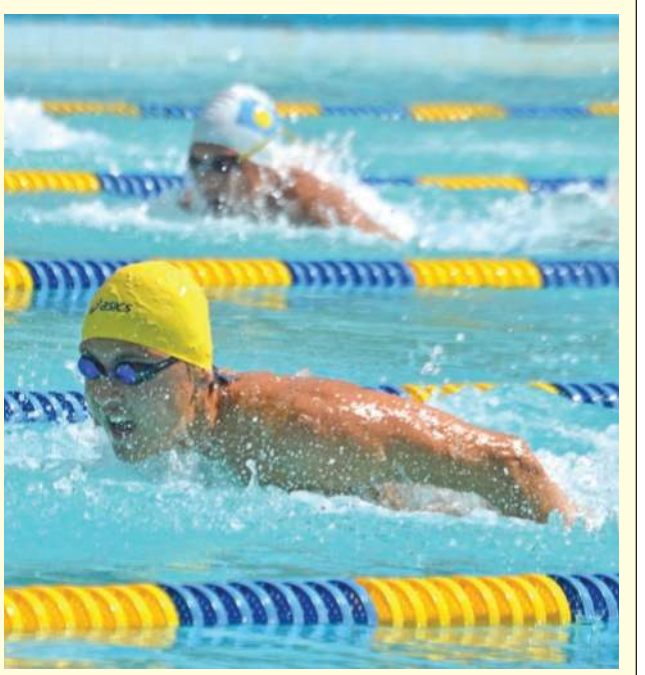

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru leads a Palau swimmer in the 200m butterfly race of the 2017 SSC International Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Swimming is among the compulsory sports in the 2019 Pacific Games that will be held in Apia, Samoa.